THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • JANUARY 26, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

A demonstrator weeps during a candlelight vigil at a protest in response to the fatal shooting of 37-year-old Alex Pretti in Minneapolis on Saturday | AP | P11

The New Indian Express wishes its readers a

Happy Republic Day

CPI OVERHAUL

New inflation basket to track OTT fees, rent

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE basket for Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures retail inflation, is set for a makeover. Digital consumption will assume greater significance in the new CPI basket with online media and OTT platforms being tracked. Rural house rent will be included, making the housing index more representative. Coverage of house rent has also been expanded in urban areas.

Saurabh Garg, secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation, said the new CPI basket—based on Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023–24—will see significant expansion. "At all-India level, the number of weighted items will increase from 299 in the 2012 series to 358 in 2024 series," he said, adding the revamped CPI basket will be more contemporary.

VS, Dharmendra awarded Padma Vibhushan

Actor Mammootty, banker Uday Kotak, cricketers Rohit Sharma & Harmanpreet Kaur among awardees

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

FORMER Kerala chief minister V S Achuthanandan and actor Dharmendra were among awardees to posthumously receive the second-highest civilian honour, Padma Vibhushan, for 2026, the government announced on Sunday.

The Union government announced 131 Padma awards for 2026, including five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri on the eve of the Republic Day. Ninety awardees are women, six foreigners/NRIs/OCIs, and 16 posthumous recipients.

Other Padma Vibhushan awardees include former Supreme Court Justice K T Thomas (public affairs), Hindustani classical violinist N Rajam (art), and eminent Malayalam journalist P Narayanan (literature and education).

Padma Bhushan recipients feature playback legend Alka Yagnik, Malayalam superstar Mammootty, tennis icon Vijay Amritraj, and banker Uday Kotak. Senior BJP leader VK Malhotra, JMM founder and former Jharkhand CM Shibu Soren, and advertising maverick Piyush Pandey were awarded posthumously.

Among the 113 Padma Shri awardees are former Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma and women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur. Hockey stars Savita Punia and Baldev Singh, and para-athlete Praveen Kumar also feature on the list.

Bollywood actors R Madhavan, Prosenjit Chatterjee, and Satish Shah received Padma Shri, alongside former JNU V-C Jagadesh Kumar and whistleblower R V S Mani, a former MHA official who exposed attempts to suppress information in Ishrat Jahan case. ISRO scientist A E Muthunayagam, DRDO's Chandramouli Gaddamanugu, and former CRPF DG K Vijay Kumar were also honoured. P6,7,9,13

Dharmendra, actor | V S Achuthanandan, former Kerala CM | Uday Kotak, banker | Mammootty, actor

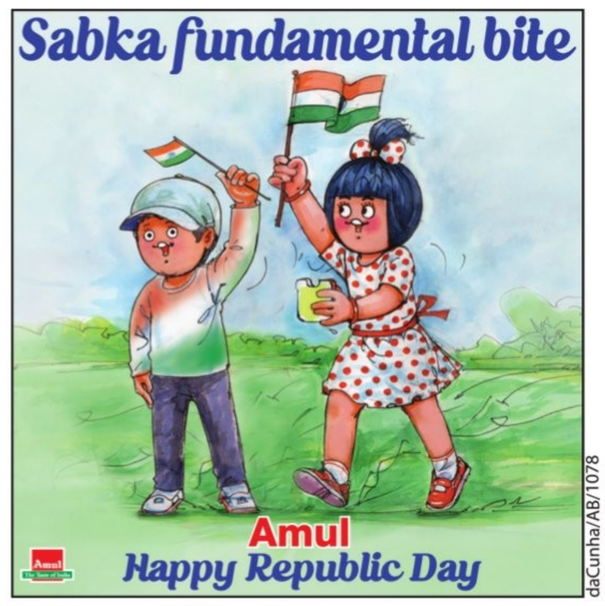
Ashok Chakra for Shubhanshu Shukla

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

GROUP Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has been approved for the Ashok Chakra to be awarded by President Droupadi Murmu on the eve of the 77th Republic Day, for his role in India's return to the human spaceflight through the International Space Station (ISS) mission last year.

Shubhanshu Shukla

Group Capt Shukla became the first Indian to visit the ISS during the Axiom-4 mission, completing an 18-day stay in orbit. The mission marked India's return to human spaceflight after four decades, following Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma's historic spaceflight aboard Soyuz mission in 1984.



Eight luminaries from Karnataka win Padma awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

EIGHT stalwarts from Karnataka from diverse fields have been picked for this year's Padma awards by the central government. One of them is a Padma Bhushan awardee, while seven others are Padma Shri winners. Shatavadhani R Ganesh has been conferred with the Padma Bhushan in the art category.

(From L) Shatavadhani R Ganesh, Prabhakar Kore and SG Susheelamma

The Padma Shri awardees are Ankegowda M (social work); Prabhakar Basavprabhu Kore (literature and education); SG Susheelamma (social work); Shashi Shekhar Vempati (literature and education); Shubha Venkatesha Iyengar (science and engineering); Dr Suresh Hanagavadi (medicine) and TT Jagannathan (posthumous; trade and industry).

The awards will be presented in March or April.

Shatavadhani Ganesh has been honoured for reviving Sanskrit arts of Ashtavadhana and Shatavadhana. A renowned polyglot, Ganesh has revived the lost art forms with over a thousand performances across the country.

Dr Susheelamma has rendered exemplary service through Sumangali Seva Ashrama, an orphanage that takes in not just orphans, but also women in distress.

CONTINUED ON: P6

EXPRESS READ

DKS launches 25-year plan to transform urban traffic infra

Bengaluru: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday rolled out an ambitious 25-year urban transformation plan, centred around a statewide 'Traffic Grid' and a hard push for ease of doing business in the state. "This will be a comprehensive Traffic Grid for all urban areas, not just Bengaluru," Shivakumar announced. The plan envisages ring roads for all major cities and strategic widening of roads among others | P2

Veteran journalist Mark Tully dies at 90

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

VETERAN journalist and acclaimed author Mark Tully passed away at a private hospital in Delhi on Sunday.

He had been unwell for some time and was admitted to Max Hospital in Saket, south Delhi, on January 21.

Mark Tully
1935–2026

Born in Calcutta (now Kolkata) on October 24, 1935, Tully served as the BBC's bureau chief in New Delhi for 22 years.

His work with the British broadcaster included coverage of several defining moments in post-Independence Indian history, such as the 1971 India-Pakistan war, the Emergency of 1975–77, Operation Blue Star, the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the anti-Sikh riots in 1984, the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in 1991, and the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992.

He authored several books on India, including *No Full Stops in India*, *India in Slow Motion*, and *The Heart of India*. He was knighted in 2002 and received the Padma Bhushan from the Government of India in 2005. P11

India in our name and in our hearts
Celebrating a Republic that stands
safe, secure and strong - together.
LIC CELEBRATING INDIA'S 77th Republic Day 2026
Assets Under Management ₹57.22 lakh crore*
Profit After Tax ₹21,040 Crore*
Total Premium Income ₹2,45,680 Crore*
Agency Strength 14.87 lakh
(* as on 30th September, 2025)
LIC
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Har Pal Aapke Saath
LIC/ R1/2025-26 /29 /Eng

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Monday:** 26.01.2026 • **Year:** Vishwavasu • **Ayana:** Uttharayana
• **Ritu:** Sisira • **Masa:** Magha • **Paksha:** Sukla • **Tithi:** Ashtami 6.55 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Ashwini 10.46 am • Moon in Vrishabha Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER — MIN 15°C | MAX 27°C — **FORECAST** Cloudy

Sunrise 06.46 am | Sunset 06.17 pm | Moonrise 10.28 am | Moonset 11.05 pm

MOBILITY WOES

DKS ROLLS OUT 25-YEAR PLAN TO FIX URBAN TRAFFIC INFRA

Idea centres around statewide 'Traffic Grid'; DCM pushes for ease of doing business

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH traffic snarls choking almost every major city in Karnataka and the patience of investors wearing thin, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday rolled out an ambitious 25-year urban transformation plan, centred around a statewide 'Traffic Grid' and a hard push for ease of doing business in the state. Recalling former chief minister SM Krishna's vision that Bengaluru should build capacity for the future, Shivakumar said the time for incremental fixes is over. "We cannot afford to waste time. This will be a comprehensive Traffic Grid for all urban areas, not just Bengaluru," Shivakumar announced.

The plan envisages ring roads for all major cities, strategic widening of roads and a legal framework to ensure that infrastructure keeps pace with growth. Mistakes in projects like the Peripheral Ring Road, which has been unduly delayed, will not be repeated. Already, urban and rural development departments are working in sync, he said.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Shivakumar held over 100 meetings, including discussions with over 45 global companies in AI, data centres, aviation, renewables and electric vehicles. In a calculated move, he refused to sign MoUs at Davos. "Let them come to Karnataka, breathe our air and see our talent before signing," he said. He promised to dismantle a system where files move through 28 channels. "Time is money."

He confirmed advanced talks with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to fund Bengaluru's proposed tunnel road project, drawing inspiration from Zurich's dense tunnel network. A study visit to Japan is planned to finalise cutting-edge tunnelling technology, he added.

He stood firm on the proposed AI City at Bidadi, brushing aside criticism. "When farmers are willing to give land for development, no one can stop progress," he said, calling the Bengaluru Business Corridor compensation package the best in the country.

Asserting Bengaluru's primacy in the country, he said, "The prime minister has called only one Indian city a 'Global City', and that is Bengaluru." He said the state produces 2.5 million engineering professionals, far ahead of California's 1.3 million,13,900 doctors and nearly 1 lakh medical professionals every year, far more than any other state, he added.

"Infrastructure alone won't solve the crisis, we need civic discipline too. In Davos, no one overtakes recklessly. Discipline matters," he added. The state government has earmarked Rs 2.5 lakh crore over five years for Bengaluru's infrastructure, including 123 km of elevated corridors and 300 km of buffer roads, Shivakumar said.

Recently, representatives from IT giants and tech leaders had publicly highlighted how traffic jams cause long commutes, reducing productivity, and escalating costs. Some CEOs and founders of companies have voiced their frustration over potholes, endless jams, and poor infrastructure, with some even threatening to relocate or urging work from home revival.

As part of an awareness campaign, the Bengaluru Traffic Police organised a 'Road Safety Bike Rally' on Sunday. The rally commenced from Kanteerava Stadium and passed through MG Road before concluding at the Senior Police Officers' Mess. City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh and Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy participated in the rally

Traffic police plan stakeholders' meet to ease ORR congestion

BENGALURU: In the wake of the TomTom Traffic Index ranking Bengaluru as the world's second most congested city, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have identified the Outer Ring Road (ORR) stretch between KR Puram and Iblur as one of the worst-affected corridors contributing to the crisis. To address this, the BTP planned a stakeholders' meeting in the first week of February to address the congestion issues. Representatives of major companies located along the ORR will be invited. The meeting will focus on measures to reduce the dependence on private vehicles by encouraging greater use of public transport and shared mobility options. Officials said the transport department and other related agencies would also be involved to ensure coordinated action. According to traffic officials, the KR Puram to Iblur ORR stretch alone houses around 500 IT and allied companies, employing nearly 12 lakh people. In addition, thousands of app-based delivery vehicles operate along this corridor, especially during peak hours, placing immense pressure on road capacity and worsening congestion. Officials pointed out that the TomTom ranking was based on traffic data from just 10 major roads across the city, and among these, the KR Puram-Iblur stretch topped the list, with vehicle volume far exceeding the designed carrying capacity of the road. Vehicles on this corridor reportedly travel multiple times slower than ideal speeds during peak periods, making it a critical bottleneck for city traffic. **ENS**

Citizens protest at Lalbagh against draft BMLTA rules

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

HUNDREDS of citizens, led by the Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP), gathered at Lalbagh to oppose the draft Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Rules, 2025, alleging that a key provision could allow major infrastructure projects to bypass mandatory scrutiny. Protesters specifically targeted Draft Rule 24, demanding greater transparency, accountability and public oversight in urban development decisions.

As part of the protest, citizens launched a postcard campaign on Saturday, writing their objections to the draft rules and sending them to the urban development department.

The BNP has raised strong objections to several provisions in the draft, arguing that they dilute democratic oversight and concentrate power. The party flagged Draft Rule 24 as its primary concern, alleging that it enables retrospective legitimisation of large infrastructure projects initiated over the past two years, involving investments worth thousands of crores. Such projects, BNP claimed, would be exempted from statutory scrutiny mandated under the BMLTA Act, 2022.

Calling it a "backdoor attempt", BNP alleged that Rule 24 could be used to push through contested projects such as the proposed tunnel road, which has been flagged by experts and even the BMLTA itself as environmentally, financially and infrastructurally not sound. The party argued that retrospective approvals undermine public consultation, expert evaluation and evidence-based planning, and demanded the complete removal of Rule 24 from the draft.

The BNP also objected to other provisions, including what it described as excessive discretionary powers vested in the chairperson under Rule 7, conditional voting procedures under Rule 9, where the chairperson's declaration is deemed conclusive unless two-thirds of members demand a vote – and the concentration of authority under Rule 14(3). It further criticised weak penalties under Rule 19, calling for comprehensive revisions to strengthen accountability and democratic governance.

Independent mobility expert Satya Arikutharam said Draft Rule 24 was a deliberate attempt to shield "unscientific vanity projects" from mandatory review under Section 19 of the BMLTA Act. "The government worries that none of the unscientific projects, especially the tunnel road proposal, can obtain Section 19 approval. Hence, it is stealthily trying to get deemed approval status through Rule 24," he said.

City to host 4-day Lingayat biz conclave

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru:

ALL roads lead to Palace Grounds from January 29, as the fourth Lingayat Global Business Conclave gears up for a four-day showcase of enterprise and community-driven economic power. With 260 stalls already confirmed and a projected footfall of 60,000 to 1 lakh, the conclave is shaping up to be one of the largest community-led business summits in the state.

Chairman of the organising group and International Lingayat Youth Forum leader Santosh Kenchamba said the conclave is rooted in the idea of self-reliance and dignity. "Community organisation is the foundation of economic strength. This conclave is a platform for the community to unite and grow economically," he said.

Trustee Satish Moodi told *TNIE* that participants will arrive from Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, besides Karnataka. "We have three categories of stalls -- Rs 35,000, Rs 45,000 and Rs 55,000 -- while premium stalls vary from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. There are also 20 socio-economic stalls given as charity to mutts and small traders," he said.

It will be inaugurated on January 29 by Sri Sri Siddalinga Mahaswamigalu of Siddaganga Mutt, in the presence of senior leaders and cabinet ministers MB Patil, Eshwar Khandre, Sharanagouda Darshanapur and Sharan Prakash Patil.

EXPRESS READ

Sri Sri Awards recognise educators, schools

The 4th edition of the Sri Sri Awards for Education, which concluded at the Art of Living International Centre, Bengaluru, celebrated educators and institutions that are reshaping learning by integrating human values, consciousness and holistic development into education. Instituted by the Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir (SSRVM) Trust, this year's awards was held on the theme 'Education: Moving Towards Absolute Intelligence'. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar highlighted the growing crisis of declining attention spans, classroom violence and emotional distress among children, citing examples from interventions in Chicago schools where meditation significantly reduced violent incidents. He emphasised that education should go beyond imparting information to nurturing personalities. Karnataka Lokayukta Justice B S Patil, Aarin Capital and Manipal Global Education Services Chairman Mohandas Pai and CBSE Director of Training Manoj Srivastava spoke on the importance of learning environments, cultural wisdom and curiosity-driven education. SSRVM Trust representatives shared how programmes like Utkarsh Yoga, Medha Yoga and Pragya Yoga have equipped students to face life's challenges. **ENS**

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar inaugurates the Sri Sri Awards for Education at the Art of Living International Centre in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Alumni reunion at Christ University today

Christ University is set to host a History Alumni Reunion for former students of its History Department, particularly the HEP and KHP batches, at its Central Campus on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 2 pm. The event is being organised under the patronage of Vice Chancellor Jose CC. The reunion aims to bring together alumni and faculty members on a common platform to reconnect, reflect on their academic journeys, and celebrate the intellectual legacy of the History Department. It will provide an opportunity for former students to revisit formative experiences, renew friendships across batches, and engage in meaningful conversations with peers and mentors. **ENS**

Congestion rank exposes big gaps in mobility planning

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU'S ranking as the second most congested city in the world in the latest TomTom Traffic Index, has once again drawn attention to the city's worsening traffic conditions. While the ranking reflects long commute times and slow-moving roads, urban mobility experts say it offers only a limited view of how the city functions and should not drive policy decisions.

The TomTom index measures average travel time for motorised vehicles over fixed distances. Experts caution that focusing on improving this ranking risks pushing cities towards road widening, flyovers and tunnel projects, approaches Bengaluru has relied on for decades with little success.

Ashish Verma, Professor of Transportation Systems Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), said the index captures congestion but ignores how people move using public transport, walking or cycling. "If cities chase this ranking, they will only invest more in road infrastructure, which worsens congestion in the long run," he said.

Verma pointed out that cities ranking lower on the index are often smaller American cities that are heavily car-dependent and lack strong public transport systems. "That is not a model Bengaluru should aspire to," he said, adding that cities such as London also perform poorly on the index, despite having robust public transport networks. Srikanth Vishwanathan, co-founder of Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, said Bengaluru does not need global rankings to diagnose its problems. "We already know traffic is bad. The focus should be on buses, walkability and neighbourhood-level planning," he said.

Vishwanath stressed that while Metro expansion is important, it cannot work in isolation. "Metro covers only a small part of the city. Without large-scale investment in buses and safe, continuous footpaths, people will continue to rely on private vehicles," he said, calling for a long-term plan to make Bengaluru fully walkable. Shaheen Shasa, volunteer with Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike, warned against treating Metro projects as a standalone solution. She said excessive focus on large infrastructure often sidelines buses, first- and last-mile connectivity, and street-level improvements that affect most daily commuters.

Experts also highlighted Bengaluru's uneven growth pattern, with jobs concentrated in corridors such as Whitefield, Electronics City and Outer Ring Road, forcing long commutes. Mixed-use neighbourhoods and better use of public land, they said, are essential for reducing travel demand.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

26th January : The Red Neptune Transit The idea of Neptune, the big planet of dreams, entering the realm of Aries, associated with conflict, can seem like a red alert. Yet conflict isn't only destruction; it's also clarification. Friction reveals what we care about, where boundaries matter and where imagination needs the courage to act. This transit can signal the catalyst that turns vague longings into decisions.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Reinvention is available, and you're willing to let go of the familiar. Even though certain beliefs about who you are feel safe -- because they're known -- you're brave enough to take a risk and let them go. You're more than your role -- more than your story.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
Your efforts to listen better give you a competitive edge. Most people don't value the skill enough to be excellent at it. It takes a calm and open mind to settle into what's being expressed. People notice and respect your talent.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Finishing what you start is a declaration of your strength. Every completed project, big or small, builds momentum. Your credibility is increasing, and so is your confidence as you honor the commitments that honor you.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
If you don't know quite what you want, at least you know what you don't want, which is the best place to start. All that you don't want is negative space, and you're the sculptor freeing the figure from everything that is not the figure.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
What appears to be an ordinary encounter has more levels. Others are unstressed because they are naive to the stakes. You're well aware. Because of your sensitivity, interactions require more of you, but they give you more, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
You will live as the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche did, by the concept of amor fati, "a love of one's fate." Whatever destiny hands over, you'll polish it until it gleams. You'll be trusted with treasures of finance and heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
Any clothing can be attractive on a confident person. However, it's difficult to feel confident if you don't like what you're wearing. Address issues of style. It's a power move.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
You see your loved ones clearly, including their flaws and past mistakes, and you stay loyal. Loyalty shows up as discretion (not broadcasting their failures) and as a conscious choice to emphasize their strengths when you stand by them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
No one knows what they are doing today. It's unclear where we're headed. There's a general sense of being uninformed; it's the same for everyone. Dive in and do what you can with what you know, and you'll soon know more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
It's easy to want something just because everyone seems to. But those wants, even when fulfilled, are somehow unfulfilling. That's why you seek deeper knowledge. Ask your true wants to speak a little louder to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
A good lawyer does not present all the information he has about his client during the opening statement. And nor do you need to tell your whole story immediately. You already have the attention, so you can be deliberate with your pacing.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
A lot of simple improvements don't happen because no one thinks to make them happen. But you're always looking around for opportunities to help. You'll see what needs fixing and move things in a better, brighter direction.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

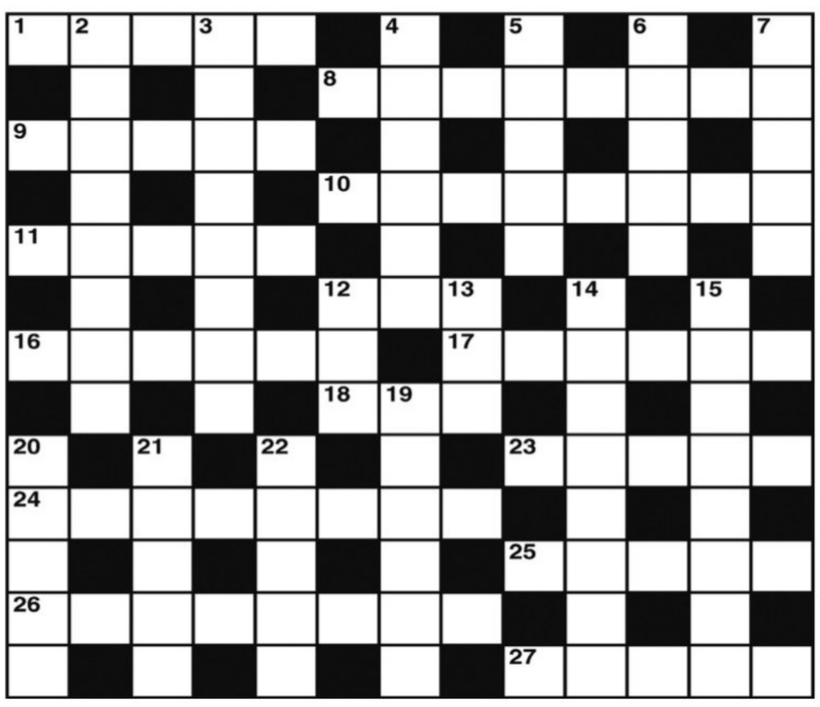
	3							
			8			4	6	
				7		3		2
		8	9	5		7		4
	7						2	
9		3		6	2	5		
5		7		1				
	2	9			8			
							4	

5	7	9	1	6	2	8	3	4
4	3	6	8	5	9	7	1	2
8	2	1	4	7	3	9	6	5
2	9	8	6	1	5	3	4	7
1	5	7	2	3	4	6	8	9
3	6	4	9	8	7	5	2	1
7	1	5	3	4	6	2	9	8
6	8	2	5	9	1	4	7	3
9	4	3	7	2	8	1	5	6

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Paste for repairing records (5)
8 They may be happy playing cards (8)
9 Less in sum perhaps (5)
10 Otherwise he's a ripe hypocrite (8)
11 Suitable material may be mined (5)
12 Old agreement from extremely early times (3)
16 A golfer won't take it lying down (6)
17 Scotsman was disturbed by birds (6)
18 Don't go without a pen (3)
23 Hens are loud birds out at night (5)
24 Give up control and hang around (4,4)
25 In any case there's no trouble (5)
26 They establish what a ship does when it sinks (8)
27 Quick to note danger (5)

DOWN
2 Liqueur made in Eastern state (8)
3 Ragged retinues, hungry and rapacious (8)
4 Girl's pen had broken (6)
5 Award for a priest of unusual merit? (5)
6 Hairdo is a washout (5)
7 It often goes into a basket (5)
12 No alternative (3)
13 Girl may appear confused (3)
14 Vessel that crosses the bar? (8)
15 Partition between pigs and birds (8)
19 He interrupts a politician with a supposition (6)
20 Refuse to make fun of (5)
21 Finish with one's tail in the air (3,2)
22 Green areas for bowls (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Crispbread, 6 Scow, 10 Ducat, 11 Come round, 12 Zeppelin, 13 Crete, 15 Discuss, 17 Alarmed, 19 Nostril, 21 Armoury, 22 Moses, 24 Torrents, 27 Eccentric, 28 Set-to, 29 Sash, 30 All the same.

Down: 1 Code, 2 Increases, 3 Put up, 4 Recalls, 5 Armenia, 7 Chute, 8 Wednesdays, 9 Proclaim, 14 Odd numbers, 16 Uprising, 18 Mount Etna, 20 Lateral, 21 Apricot, 23 Socks, 25 Ensue, 26 Role.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

LORTL

ONCTU

RIOFNM

CYROAN

Walk This Way
SHOE BOUTIQUE
GRAND OPENING
I'm glad we came this way.
It's worth the 15-minute walk to get here.
CUSTOMERS ARRIVED AT THE NEW SHOE STORE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: COVET FOAMY SHREWD ONWARD
Answer: The deer family member hung out with his smaller cousins until he — HAD TO "VA-MOOSE"

GOVERNMENT OF
ARUNACHAL PRADESH

VIKSIT ARUNACHAL

Delivering Development for All

Celebrating 77th REPUBLIC DAY

26 January 2026

Remarkable Achievement Brings Pride to the State

Gauhati High Court, Itanagar Permanent Bench
Delivered on 10 August 2025

Administrative Training Institute, Naharlagun
Delivered on 03 October 2025

Multi-storey residential complex for Govt staffs
Delivered May 2025

New Terminal at Donyi Polo Airport, Hollongi
Delivered on 04 September 2025

Maternal & Child Health Wing, Namsai
Delivered July 2025

Arunachal Pradesh Patients' Guest House
in Vellore inaugurated

DECADE OF HYDROPOWER 2025-35

19,000 MW
HEPS TO BE COMMISSIONED BY 2035

46,000+
JOB OPPORTUNITIES

26%
EQUITY FOR STATE GOVT. IN HEPS

INVESTMENT OF ₹ 1.9 LAKH CRORE

MILESTONE PROJECTS

* **600 MW** Kameng Hydro Power Project completed
* Subansiri Lower HEP (**2,000 MW**) to be fully commissioned by December 2026
* Dibang Multipurpose Project – Largest in India (**2880 MW**) to be commissioned by February 2032

Kameng Hydro Electric Project
Delivered November 2022

"Arunachal Pradesh will rise like the dawn—strong, dynamic, and resilient—steadily progressing towards its destiny in the sacred Amrit Kaal"

– **Pema Khandu**, Chief Minister (AP)

JAI HIND, JAI ARUNACHAL

DIPR/ARN/REPUB-027/2026

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Sunday said it is wrong if the police have booked BJP leader Vikas Puttur under provisions of the Hate Speech Bill as it has not become a law yet. "I will get information on the matter. As the Bill has not yet got the governor's nod, we need to see how they (police) did it. It is okay to impose existing sections under BNS," he said

'SIMPLER TAXATION IS KEY EXPECTATION FROM BUDGET'

EXPRESS Dialogues

THE key expectation is simplification of taxation, particularly TDS, which currently creates a heavy compliance burden, says K Ravi, Chairman, International Business Expert Committee, the Bangalore Chamber of Industry & Commerce. Ahead of the Union budget, Ravi speaks on the concerns of MSMEs, shortcomings of manufacturing in Karnataka, shortage of skilled labour, reasons for failure of startups and others. **Excerpts....**

It is a common conception that Bengaluru's economy is almost entirely tech-driven. Is that true?
Karnataka accounts for around 36 per cent of the country's Information Technology sector. This is primarily due to the priority given to engineering education in the state since its inception. Coming to other sectors, I think as far as manufacturing is concerned, we are way behind Tamil Nadu and other states. I was in Japan back in September, where Bangalore Chamber of Industry & Commerce (BCIC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Mayor of Osaka. It was signed specifically in terms of manufacturing. The Kansai region is very strong in terms of manufacturing, and they are very keen to collaborate with Indian companies. I feel the Karnataka government has to provide a lot more impetus to manufacturing.

Do you think AI will replace human talent?
There's a lot of hype about AI. But let us also understand that AI cannot take care of all our requirements per se. It may do 90 per cent of the work, but the last 10 per cent has to be human output. I can use ChatGPT or any other software and get all the answers, but that doesn't look authentic. Maybe it can be employed in jobs of "repetitive" requirements, but not elsewhere.

What are the shortcomings of the manufacturing sector in Karnataka?
Getting labour is a big problem. With stringent labour laws, getting labour at lower levels is very tough. Skilled manpower is one area where I feel the government has to spend more effort. Foreign companies like those from Japan and Germany seek specialised labour, not generic. After we signed the MoU with Osaka, we asked them to send their trainers to train the workforce here, because getting good, skilled labour is one of the main problems.

You spoke about skilled labour, but Karnataka has a high output of engineering students. Where is it going wrong?
There is a mismatch between the capability of engineers and the requirements of industry. I feel the government should sit down with industry and the academia, and understand the gap.

Do internships help?
There is a problem with how internships are structured. What's in it for the employer or the person who's training? Most trainees or interns are only bothered about getting certificates of completion that they can submit to their university authorities. According to me, internships should be an ongoing process alongside the curricula. Otherwise, internships are just for the certificate's sake.

After you met with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, how much progress has been made on the infrastructure inputs you shared for Bengaluru?
Bengaluru continues to face serious challenges, especially in waste disposal and traffic. While Metro expansion takes time, waste management could be improved through mechanisation, which is currently resisted due to employment concerns. Traffic congestion is worsening, and measures like congestion charges or limits on vehicle registrations are needed. Without strong intervention, both issues will deteriorate further.

What are your key expectations from the upcoming Union and State budgets?
The key expectation is simplification of taxation, particularly TDS (tax deducted at source), which currently creates a heavy compliance burden. Incentives for large TDS contributors and extended depreciation benefits for manufacturing have been suggested. Export-driven industries are under stress due to US tariffs, though progress on FTAs with several countries is a positive development.

What are the main challenges exporters face in Customs and compliance?
While income-tax processes are largely digitised, Customs clearances, incentives and refunds remain cumbersome. Faster and complete digitisation is needed to reduce red tape and ease exporter difficulties.

What are the key concerns of MSMEs today?
MSMEs struggle mainly with a lack of R&D funding and access to credit. Banks remain cautious, incentives are limited, and technology adoption is weak. Government support for R&D, better credit flow, cluster-based development and improved logistics are crucial for their survival and growth.

How does this affect foreign companies coming to India?
Foreign companies face delays in clearances and land allotment, weak follow-up after MoUs, and poor connectivity. Inefficient road, rail and port linkages raise logistics costs and complicate supply chains, making operations outside Bengaluru difficult and discouraging investment in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Is this why Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities beyond Bengaluru are not growing?
Yes, partly. Cities like Mysuru, Hubballi and Tumakuru lack quality schools, multi-specialty hospitals, housing, and good mobility. Without these, businesses and talent continue to move to Bengaluru.

Why haven't industrial clusters in Karnataka like Kalaburagi developed fully?
The clusters exist, but growth is limited because education, healthcare, housing and logistics are insufficient. Roads are improving, but ecosystem support is still needed.

What about the demand to increase minimum wages?
Minimum wages must be viable. Labour committees often have more employee representatives, and politics can influence decisions. If wages are too high, businesses struggle to remain competitive. While the new Labour Code has introduced improvements, state rules are still being framed, and compliance paperwork remains high. Ease of doing business requires simpler processes, and further digitization can help reduce the burden.

How much more can Bengaluru handle — economically, infrastructurally, and physically? Should a carrying capacity study be done?
Growth is moving toward Hoskote and Kolar, but current infrastructure is insufficient. Until these areas develop into self-sustaining cities, Bengaluru will continue to face traffic congestion and pollution. Measures like car usage fees could help, but political and administrative constraints delay implementation. Public spaces in the city centre are also needed, with corporates willing to support, but the government must ensure basic amenities.

What advice do you have for youngsters who want to start a business and how is the startup sector doing?
The success rate of startups remains low at around 2-3 per cent, largely because many ideas lack practical feasibility and adequate mentoring, a chamber representative told me. While sectors such as defence, robotics, artificial intelligence, IoT and deep-tech have produced notable successes, most startups struggle due to weak financial management and poor statutory compliance. Nearly 75-80 per cent of startups are unaware of basic legal and accounting requirements, which later emerge during investor due diligence by adding that mentoring was key.

Is there any safety net for entrepreneurs and employees when a startup fails? What happens to people who join startups that don't work out and are left without employment?
Many startup founders struggle for years, often burning their savings, with virtually no safety net. The only real cushion comes from venture capital funding, where investors take risks in return for potential rewards. Globally, startup ecosystems offer strong institutional support. In some cases, service providers also share risk by accepting equity instead of fees, benefiting only if the startup succeeds. Such models reduce early financial pressure on entrepreneurs. Both the State and Union governments are already extending significant support to the startup ecosystem through policies and funding initiatives. While challenges remain, public backing and alternative investment models are gradually strengthening India's startup landscape.

There is growing talk about companies moving from Bengaluru to cities like Hyderabad or Chennai. From your perspective, how real is this concern, and should Karnataka be worried about it?
There is no real migration of companies from one state to another, either from a personal perspective or from the chamber's view. What does happen is competition for big-ticket investments, where incentives and Central government support matter, though decisions are largely merit-based. Smaller companies usually choose locations based on ecosystem strengths — IT in Bengaluru, manufacturing in Chennai or Pune, or healthcare in Hyderabad. Companies research labour availability and comfort before investing. Bengaluru's biggest advantage remains its strong human resource base, especially in software and IT, with high demand driving frequent job changes and salary jumps of around 30 per cent, a trend that began with the IT sector.

But does that fall in line with what you were saying about lack of skill?
The trend is most visible among professionals with five to eight years of experience, who already possess strong skill sets and are easily lured by 20-30 per cent higher pay. Employers face growing challenges, while concerns persist over declining work ethic among younger employees, whose expectations and priorities differ sharply from earlier generations.

Guv can make changes to R-Day speech, but not the one prepared for joint session: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mysuru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said while Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has the discretion to make changes to his Republic Day speech, but is constitutionally bound to deliver the address prepared by the state government for the joint session of the legislature.

Speaking to media persons at Mysuru Airport, Siddaramaiah said there is no rule mandating that the governor must read out the government-prepared speech on Republic Day. "Some changes can be made. We do not know what the governor will do tomorrow. However, Articles 176 and 163 of the Constitution clearly state that the governor should address the joint session by reading the speech prepared by the government," he said.

He added that the government has no objection to the governor explaining the issue to the President of India. "We will not explain anything further to the president on this matter," he said.

Responding to DCM D K Shivakumar and Industries Minister M B Patil attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, the CM said Karnataka offers a favourable investment climate. "There are skilled human resources in the state. Skill training is also being provided to unskilled workers, and those who complete the training are assured of employment," he said.

Reacting to JDS supremo and former prime minister H D Deve Gowda's recent allegation that the Congress government illegally targeted and arrested H D Revanna, Siddaramaiah dismissed the claims as politically motivated. "JDS will not come to power under any circumstances. Deve Gowda has made a political statement. JDS leaders believe they can come to power by aligning with the BJP, but even if they secure a majority, the BJP will not hand over power to JDS," he said.

He asserted that Congress would secure a clear majority in the 2028 Assembly elections and form the government. "The chief ministerial candidate will be decided by the party high command," he added.

Siddaramaiah clarified that the state government has not interfered in the case against Revanna or in any other case. "The police have acted strictly according to the law. JDS leaders are spreading falsehoods. Why should we target Revanna? If they come to power, they too will have to act as per law. The government has nothing to do with the case," he said.

On budget preparations, Siddaramaiah said he would begin official budget meetings from February 2. "The finance department has already completed the preparatory work. I will start the formal discussions from February 2. The state continues to have an open and investor-friendly environment, which has led to increased investments," he said.

Responding to BJP leaders' allegations that the state's tableau was not selected for the Republic Day parade due to a lack of coordination with the Centre, Siddaramaiah said there had been extensive correspondence with the Central government. "Despite this, the tableau was not selected," he added.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaks to media persons at Mysuru Airport on Sunday

Refusal to read state's R-Day speech will prove Centre pulling Guv's strings: M B Patil

Vijayapura: Industries Minister MB Patil said Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot will prove himself to be an "agent" of the Union government if he refuses to deliver the Republic Day speech prepared by the state government. Addressing media persons on Sunday, he said by not reading the speech prepared by the state government at the joint session of the legislature, the governor showed that he was acting at the behest of the Centre and has not discharged his Constitutional duties. "It is the duty of the governor to read out the speech prepared by the state government as he is officially representing the state. The same governor has read out the government's speech in the past, but now why did be refuse to do so?" he said. He noted that the governor refused to read out the speech as it had a matter that was critical of the Union government's decision to rename MGNREGA. " The state government is airing its voice against the renaming of the scheme. The structural changes made in the scheme will take away the job opportunities of rural people. The state government is against the Centre's move. The governor should have read the government's speech which is his Constitutional duty," he said. He expressed dismay that such a bad precedent has emerged where governors are refusing to read the state government's speech. It was the Tamil Nadu governor who started it first and now the Karnataka governor has followed suit. The governors of non-BJP ruled states have resorted to such unconstitutional actions, he said. **ENS**

Min: Centre, RSS behind Guv speech decision

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kalaburagi

THERE were no derogatory matter against the Centre in the speech prepared by the government for the governor to read during the joint session of the legislature, said Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge.

Speaking at a press conference here on Sunday, Kharge said it was not right on the part of the governor to leave the house without reading the speech. It was an unconstitutional move, he added.

"The governor should have read the speech patiently and then paid homage to the national anthem. His behavior was not in accordance with the Constitution. Legislative Council member BK Hariprasad and MLA Sharath Bachhegowda objected to this. Why are BJP leaders, who are demanding action against Hariprasad and Bachegowda, not seeking action against the governor for not paying respect to the national anthem?" he said.

"Were there any derogatory words in the speech prepared by the government? There were details of letters written by the CM to Modi, letters written by me and CR Patil to Union minister Shivraj Singh Chavan and those by Krishna Byre Gowda to the Centre regarding the state's demands," he said.

"Is it wrong to seek release of grants under the 15th Finance Commission for panchayats? Under BV-G RAM G, the state's share was fixed at 40%. Was the state's opinion heard before presenting it in the parliament? Is it wrong to question it? Is it wrong to inform people through the governor? The governor left the Legislative Session without reading the speech per the direction of the Centre and the RSS. The BJP and RSS have no respect for the national anthem," Kharge said.

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy interacts with farmers who are protesting against land acquisition for the Bidadi township project, on Sunday | EXPRESS

DKS ready to debate HDK on Bidadi township project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday invited Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy for a debate on the proposed Bidadi township project that the latter has been vehemently opposing.

"I am ready for a debate with Kumaraswamy on Bidadi township. Let the media decide the date. I had accepted the challenge when he was CM. I am inviting him for the debate even now," he told reporters after inaugurating a Ram temple near Kanakapura.

He was responding to Kumaraswamy's statement that the DK brothers must come for a debate on the project. "I am ready whenever Kumaraswamy is ready for the debate. Inform me three days before so that I can block my calendar. He (Kumaraswamy) is doing politics. It is not me who started this project, but it was him. He has admitted that he had promised 800 sqft of land to farmers. We are only continuing with the project now," he said, responding to Kumaraswamy's statement that he won't allow Bidadi township. "Neither Kumaraswamy nor I are permanent here, but our decisions will be. It will greatly benefit future generations and they will remember us. We have widened the roads in my constituency and we have given a compensation of Rs 1,500 per sqft to them," he said.

Will not allow land acquisition: HDK

Taking part in a protest against the Bidadi township project by farmers from various villages, including Bhyramangala and Kanchuganahalli, Kumaraswamy said he will not allow fertile agricultural land around Bidadi to be acquired illegally. "We will not allow even an inch of land to be acquired," he said.

"Women farmers pleaded with me to save their land. The responsibility of saving this land of my sisters is mine. We will not leave an inch of land. Let us see how it is acquired. Governments come and go. But people are eternal. Governments should yield to public opinion. Otherwise, people know how to teach a lesson," he added.

BYV: Minority appeasement now the only game for CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hubballi

SLAMMING the Congress government, BJP state president and MLA B Y Vijayendra said that despite being in power for the last two-and-a-half years, there has been no development in the state.

He said here on Sunday that even with a highly experienced chief minister, neither a single paisa has been allocated for the state's development nor has any new scheme been announced so far.

The government has been unable to manage funds even for its guarantee schemes. It is increasing prices to fill the coffers. Even grocery stores are selling liquor because of pressure from the government. The Siddaramaiah government is turning Karnataka into a state of drunkards, which is a unfortunate, he added

A deception is being played out in Hubballi in the name of handing over houses. In fact, the project dated back to BS Yediyurappa's tenure. When BJP was in power at the municipal corporation, 16 acres were allotted to the Slum Board. The Central government also extended financial assistance. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah merely cut the ribbon and delivered grand speeches, he criticised.

He alleged that Excise Minister BZ Zameer Khan has encouraged liquor sales in the name of programmes. This is a shameless and disgraceful government. The chief minister, who came to power in the name of AHINDA, has forgotten the backward classes and is now indulging only in minority appeasement.

EXPRESS READ

Cong files plaint against Suresh Kumar over 'derogatory remarks' in Assembly

Bengaluru: The Bengaluru Central District Congress Campaign Committee on Sunday filed a complaint with the Vidhana Soudha Police, seeking legal action against Rajajinagar BJP MLA S Suresh Kumar for allegedly making derogatory remarks against women, during the Karnataka Legislative Assembly session on January 23. In its complaint, the committee alleged that Suresh Kumar, while speaking to Minister Byrathi Suresh on the floor of the House, made an offensive remark. The Congress said the comment was deliberate and insulting, and demeaned women's bodies, birth and dignity. Stating that the remark was made from a public and constitutional forum, the complainant said it caused mental anguish and outrage among women and promoted a misogynistic mindset. The police said further action will be initiated after taking legal opinion. **ENS**

Guv urges citizens to vote freely

Says voting a constitutional right; people supreme authority of governance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Sunday urged voters to exercise their franchise freely and fairly, without fear, pressure or inducement, and to actively uphold democratic values. He was speaking at the 16th National Voters' Day programme organised by the State Election Commission in the city. He also distributed state-level awards conferred by the Election Commission of India for excellence in electoral performance.

The Governor said National Voters' Day is an occasion to reaffirm the importance, dignity and role of citizens in the democratic system guaranteed by the Constitution. Noting that India is the world's largest democracy, he said its strength lies in constitutional ideals and the active participation of informed citizens. "One vote, one voice and one responsibility, this is the soul of democracy," he said.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot hands out voter ID to a physically challenged youth on National Voters' Day in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

He emphasised that by granting voting rights to every eligible citizen, the Constitution has ensured that the supreme authority of governance rests with the people. Voting, he said, is not only a legal right but also a constitutional responsibility. Highlighting India's inclusive and transparent electoral framework, he observed that the strength of democracy lies in free, fair and transparent elections, supported by active voter participation.

Describing voting as both a right and a duty, the Governor said every vote is an offering to the Republic. "Through voting, citizens contribute to governance, development priorities, social justice and the future of generations to come. Every vote thus strengthens the foundation of democracy," he said. Referring to electoral systems worldwide, the Governor noted that India follows a direct electoral system. Stressing the role of youth in nation-building, he said young people represent the strength, innovation and vision of the nation, and that even a single vote can bring about positive change.

Kerehalli booked for spreading false claims against DG&IGP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE cybercrime police have booked cow vigilante and Hindutva activist Puneeth Kerehalli and his associates for allegedly spreading false information against Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) M.A. Saleem. This is the third FIR registered against Kerehalli in the last 10 days.

According to the FIR registered on January 23, Kerehalli, along with four to five associates, allegedly went to a property on Kempapura Shweta Farm Road near Soladevanahalli on January 22. The property belongs to Sakina Tasleem.

The accused are alleged to have made false claims that people from Bangladesh had been brought through human trafficking and were being illegally sheltered at the premises. They also allegedly claimed that the property was a 'benami' asset belonging to DG&IGP Saleem and further alleged that Bangladeshi Muslims were illegally residing in Bengaluru.

The FIR stated that the accused live-streamed the incident and circulated the video on social media platforms.

Police have registered a case under the Information Technology Act and Sections 196 (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence or language) and 353 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The investigation is ongoing.

It may be recalled that Bannerghatta police arrested Kerehalli on January 16 for allegedly trespassing into a house and threatening the owner for renting the property to migrant tenants, whom he claimed were illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

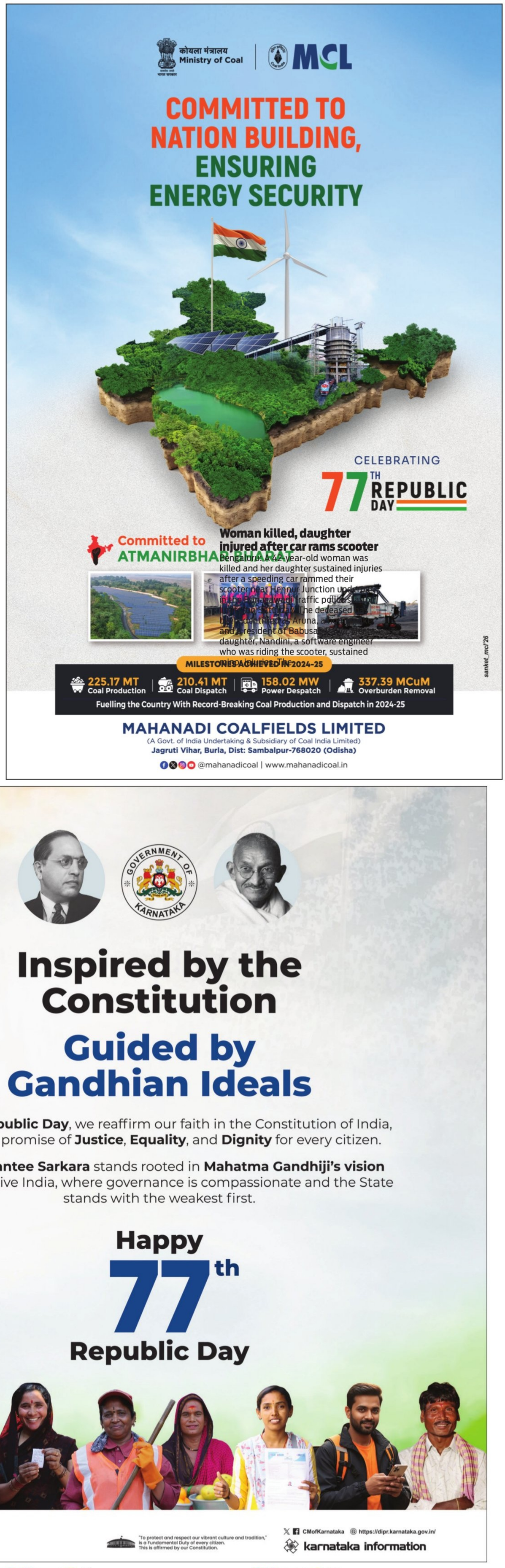
EXPRESS READ

Woman found dead in farmhouse swimming pool

Bengaluru: A 30-year-old woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances in the swimming pool of her family's farmhouse at Bettegowdanapalya, near Kanakapura in Bengaluru South district, on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Pratibha. She had married Nanjegowda about a year ago, after he separated from his first wife. Her family has alleged that she was murdered by him following a domestic dispute.

Car rams scooter, woman dead, daughter injured

Bengaluru: A 42-year-old woman was killed and her daughter sustained injuries after a car rammed their scooter near Hennur Junction underpass on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Aruna, a homemaker and a resident of Babusab Palya. Her daughter, Nandini who was riding the scooter, sustained injuries. They were heading towards Hebbal when the accident happened.


कोयला मंत्रालय
Ministry of Coal
MCL
COMMITTED TO NATION BUILDING, ENSURING ENERGY SECURITY
CELEBRATING 77TH REPUBLIC DAY
Committed to ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT
Woman killed, daughter injured after car rams scooter
Bengaluru: A 42-year-old woman was killed and her daughter sustained injuries after a speeding car rammed their scooter near Hennur Junction underpass in the Banaswadi traffic police limits on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Aruna, a homemaker and a resident of Babusab Palya. Her daughter, Nandini, a software engineer who was riding the scooter, sustained minor injuries. The
MILESTONES ACHIEVED IN 2024-25
225.17 MT Coal Production
210.41 MT Coal Dispatch
158.02 MW Power Despatch
337.39 MCuM Overburden Removal
Fuelling the Country With Record-Breaking Coal Production and Dispatch in 2024-25
MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking & Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Jagruti Vihar, Burla, Dist: Sambalpur-768020 (Odisha)
@mahanadicoal | www.mahanadicoal.in
sanket_mcl'26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Inspired by the Constitution
Guided by Gandhian Ideals
On this Republic Day, we reaffirm our faith in the Constitution of India, a solemn promise of Justice, Equality, and Dignity for every citizen.
The Guarantee Sarkara stands rooted in Mahatma Gandhiji's vision of an inclusive India, where governance is compassionate and the State stands with the weakest first.
Better Life For All
Better Opportunities For All
Happy 77th Republic Day
Shakthi
Anna Bhagya
Gruha Jyothi
Gruha Lakshmi
Yuva Nidhi
"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition," is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen. This is affirmed by our Constitution.
CMofKarnataka https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/
karnataka information

Dakshina Kannada District In-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Sunday said that elections to gram panchayats, taluk, zilla panchayats, Bengaluru and other city corporations will be held this year. Rao said that first, gram panchayat elections could be conducted

Winzo laundered ₹3,522 cr, says ED

Agency files prosecution plaint in special court against online gaming company, directors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has filed a prosecution complaint before the Special Court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against online gaming company Winzo Private Limited, its directors, and its Indian and foreign subsidiaries, accusing them of laundering proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 3,522.05 crore.

According to a press release on Sunday, the complaint was filed on Friday before the Special Court, naming Winzo Private Limited as the main accused along with its directors Paavan Nanda and Saumya Singh Rathore, and its wholly owned subsidiaries — Winzo US Inc. (USA), Winzo SG Private Limited (Singapore), and ZO Private Limited. The ED has charged the accused under Sections 3, 4, and 70 of the PMLA, stating that they knowingly generated, concealed and projected the proceeds of crime as untainted property.

The ED initiated the probe based on multiple FIRs registered by Bengaluru CEN Police and police authorities in Rajasthan, New Delhi and Gurugram for offences of cheating under the IPC. As part of the investigation, search and seizure operations were conducted on November 18 and December 30, 2025, at the company's offices, residence of one of its directors, and its accounting firm. Assets worth approximately Rs 690crore, including bank balances, payment gateway funds, mutual funds, bonds, fixed deposits and cryptocurrency wallets were seized or frozen.

According to the ED, Winzo operates a real money gaming platform offering over 100 games and claims a user base of around 25 crore, largely from Tier-3 and Tier-4 cities. The company allegedly charged commissions on user bets, while assuring players that the platform was free from bots and manipulation. However, the probe found that the games were systematically manipulated. Till December 2023, the games were allegedly embedded with bots and AI-driven profiles. Between May 2024 and August 2025, Winzo allegedly altered its modus operandi by simulating historical gameplay data of dormant or inactive users against real players without their knowledge. The use of bots was allegedly concealed under misleading internal terms such as 'Engagement Play', 'Past Performance of Player' and 'Persona'.

The ED stated that users were initially lured with small bonuses and easy wins to build trust, after which harder bot profiles were deployed when users began placing higher bets, leading to substantial losses. The agency claims that genuine users lost around Rs 734 crore to bot profiles, while higher-value winnings were often blocked through restrictive withdrawal mechanisms, forcing continued gameplay.

The probe further revealed that Winzo failed to return legitimate user winnings and deposits worth Rs 47.66 crore, even after the Union government banned real money gaming. The company generated total proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 3522.05 crore during the financial years 2021-22 to 2025-26. The ED stated that the proceeds of crime were laundered through shell companies in the US and Singapore, with about USD 55 million transferred abroad under the guise of overseas direct investment. An additional Rs 230crore was allegedly diverted to a subsidiary as purported loans, while attempts to divert another Rs 150crore failed due to non-submission of mandatory documents.

Freedom Fighters' Memorial turns into tourism spot

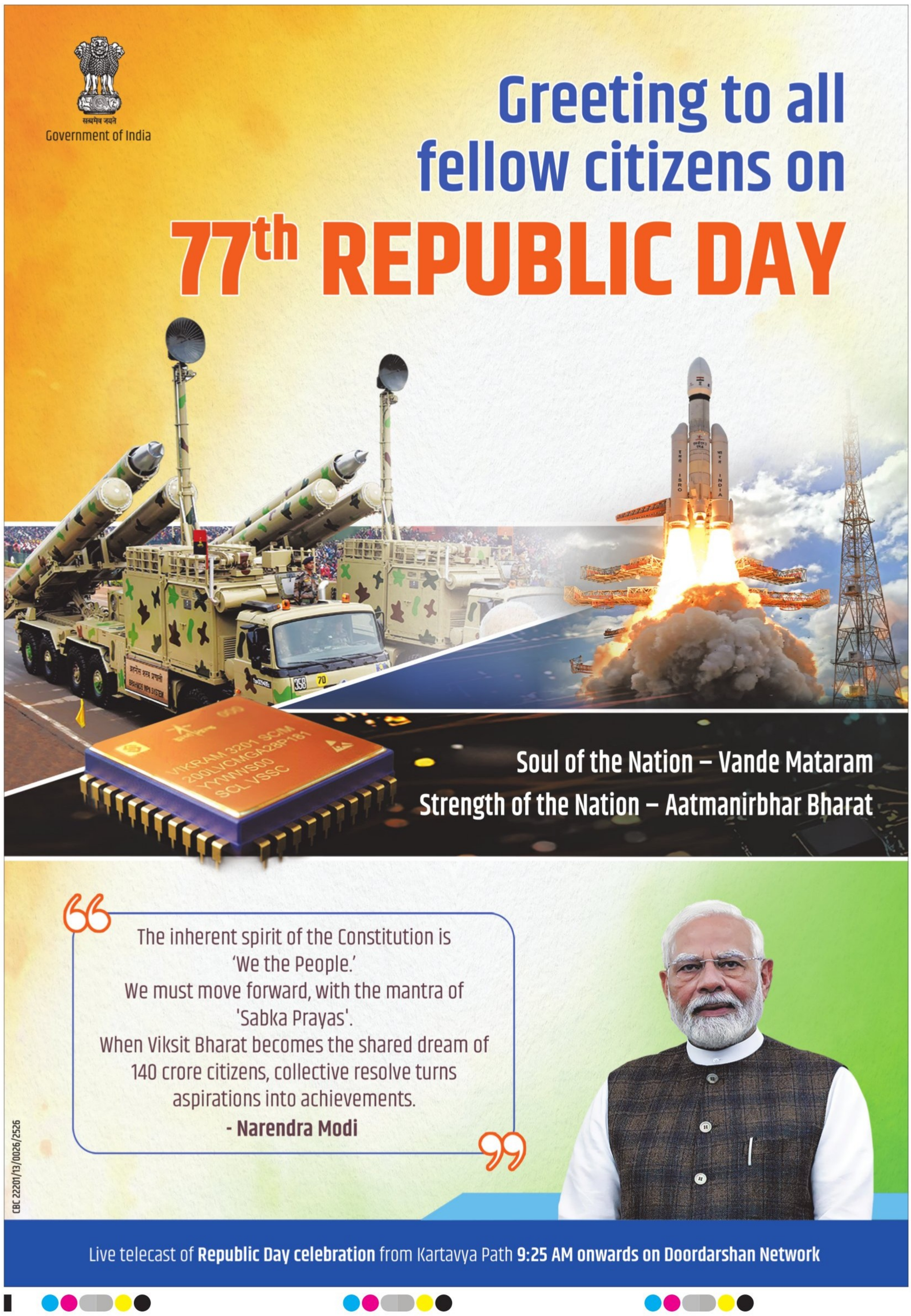
THIPPERUDRAPPA B @ Chikkamagaluru

A SPRAWLING Freedom Fighters' Memorial, built at a cost of Rs 8 crore on a one-acre plot at Hosamane Junction in Chikkamagaluru, has quietly grown into one of the city's most-visited spots since its inauguration on Gandhi Jayanti last year.

Unveiled at a grand public function, the memorial stands as a tribute to the men and women who devoted their lives to India's freedom struggle. It accords special focus on the contributions of Karnataka and the Chikkamagaluru region to the national movement.

Conceived as a space for remembrance, learning and reflection, it has now become a favourite weekend destination for tourists and schoolchildren, many of whom celebrate birthdays amid the illuminated surroundings.

The memorial is an ode to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and the freedom movement he led. Its location at a prominent city junction, close to a school, was deliberately chosen to inspire students and young visitors.


Government of India
सत्यमेव जयते
Greeting to all fellow citizens on
77th REPUBLIC DAY
Soul of the Nation – Vande Mataram
Strength of the Nation – Aatmanirbhar Bharat
The inherent spirit of the Constitution is
'We the People.'
We must move forward, with the mantra of
'Sabka Prayas'.
When Viksit Bharat becomes the shared dream of
140 crore citizens, collective resolve turns
aspirations into achievements.
- Narendra Modi
CBC 22201/13/0026/2526
Live telecast of Republic Day celebration from Kartavya Path 9:25 AM onwards on Doordarshan Network

PADMA ACHIEVERS ALL

Susheelamma: From classroom moment to Padma Shri award

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

CONFERRED with the Padma Shri for Social Work, **SG Susheelamma** gives the credit to her experience as a Class 9 student, which made her determined to take up social work, and shaped her life's purpose. Born into a wealthy family in Chamarajpet, young Susheelamma was schooling in Vani Vilas Government School when she received a textbook donated by the alumni. She stood in the queue for economically poor students to collect the book, an experience that left a deep impression. "I decided then that if I ever start earning, I will do something for society," she recalls. After working in a factory for 15 years, Susheelamma quit and founded Sumangali Seva Ashrama in 1975 with just Rs 15. Over the years, her organisation expanded into a comprehensive social service initiative, running 18 primary health centres, implementing housing projects and promoting environmental sustainability. She also established a Kannada-medium school for girls and provides care for elderly women. She calls the Padma Shri a "special honour" that will open new avenues to serve society.

Award a great honour, moment of deep satisfaction: Dr Kore

TUSHAR MAJUKAR @ Belagavi

THE Central government has conferred the prestigious Padma Shri award on **Dr Prabhakar Kore** in recognition of his outstanding and lifelong contributions to the fields of education, literature and the promotion of globally recognised health research. The honour has been widely welcomed as a moment of immense pride for the people of Karnataka. A firm believer in education as a catalyst for social transformation, Dr Kore has been instrumental in extending quality education to students from rural and backward regions.

Through his visionary leadership of the KLE Society, he has established a wide network of institutions spanning medicine, advanced medical and health research, engineering, technology and general education. The Padma Shri stands as a tribute to his unwavering commitment to public service.

"Being recognised for my work is a great honour and a moment of deep satisfaction. This award belongs to the entire KLE staff," Dr Kore said.

Mandya's bibliophile Ankegowda says credit goes to his supporters

KARTHIK KK @ Mysuru

ANKEGOWDA, founder of the renowned Pustaka Mane library in Haralahalli near Srirangapatna in Mandya district, has been recognised for his unwavering service over five decades to literature, education and the promotion of reading culture at the grassroots level. Speaking to TNIE, **Ankegowda** said, "It feels good to be recognised for the work I have been doing for five decades. This honour belongs as much to the people who have supported me as it does to me." Asked whether he had any unfulfilled demands or issues he wished to raise with the government, Ankegowda said, "If I make any demand now, it may appear commercial. When the time comes, the government and authorities will recognise what needs to be done and fulfil it," he said. Ankegowda, a native of Mandya district, is best known for building one of India's largest personal libraries, housing over two million books in more than 20 Indian and foreign languages. The collection is open to the public free of cost.

Champion of rare blood disorder rewarded for dedicated service

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @ Davanagere

EVEN though he himself is a haemophilia patient, it did not deter him from becoming a champion to protect the patients with the rare blood disorder. The story of Dr Suresh Hanagavadi who has been conferred with Padmashri award by the Union Government is heart-touching. Every day Karnataka haemophilia Society he has founded treats five or six patients and, amidst the hardship he faces, Dr Hanagavadi continues treating them totally free-of-cost. Dr Hanagavadi founded the Karnataka hemophilia Care and Haematology Research Centre and the Karnataka Hamophilia Society at Davanagere. He said, "What prompted me to start the Karnataka Haemophilia Society was watching the sufferings of my maternal uncle Neelakantappa before his demise in 1980. It was him who asked me to become a doctor and find a solution for these kinds of disorders. Later I came to know that I am also suffering from the same disorder. I founded the Society with only nine patients but now it provides treatments to more than 1,000 patients."

Vempati awarded for digitising DD; Iyengar for 'Drishti'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DR Suresh Hanagavadi has been recognised for founding the Karnataka Hemophilia Society, which offers treatment to patients suffering from haemophilia and other rare blood disorders.

The honour for Ankegowda, a former bus conductor, is for starting Pustaka Mane, a free library to take literature and the culture of reading to marginalised communities.

Author and columnist Shashi Shekhar Vempati, co-founder of AI4India.org, has won the Padma Shri for successfully bringing Doordarshan and Akashvani into the digital landscape. Prabhakar Basavaprabhu Kore, winner in the literature and education category, is the chairman of the Karnataka Lingayat Education (KLE) Society in Belagavi, which runs over 300 educational institutions.

Shubha Venkatesha Iyengar of the National Aerospace Laboratories has been recognised for developing the indigenous "Drishti" aviation weather systems and infrared detectors, which are installed at over 100 locations across the country. Jagannathan, who headed the TTK Prestige Group and stood at the forefront of cooker exports, invented the GRS safety mechanism for pressure cookers, which stops excess pressure from building up within the cooker.

With controversies like the Singareni–Naini coal block tender issue and the HILT policy erupting, the Congress high command is learnt to have decided to summon Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, along with a few ministers, to New Delhi

LANDSLIDE NEAR NH

Diversions in place, repair work begins

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

AUTHORITIES have imposed traffic restrictions and announced alternative routes after a landslide choked the Shivamogga-Bhadravathi Road, part of National Highway 206, near Machenahalli village in Nidige Hobli of Shivamogga taluk.

The landslide occurred on January 22 in front of the TMAES Ayurveda College, close to the KMF Dairy building. Officials said some roadwork was underway on the stretch when the incident occurred.

The affected stretch was inspected by contractors concerned on January 23 and 24. The service road at the site has been severely damaged, prompting authorities to restrict two-way traffic and allow only one-way movement as a safety measure.

As per the revised traffic arrangement, only light motor vehicles will be allowed to use the service road in front of the KMF Dairy building. Heavy vehicles have been completely barred from this stretch. Heavy vehicles travelling from Bhadravathi to Shivamogga have been diverted via Bhadravathi IB Circle (Military Camp), Hiriyur, Hunesekatte Junction, Lakkinakoppa Junction, Shivamogga Airport Road and MRS Circle. Vehicles moving from Shivamogga towards Bhadravathi will take the reverse route via MRS Circle, Shivamogga Airport, Lakkinakoppa Junction, Hunesekatte Junction, Hiriyur and Bhadravati IB Circle.

Light vehicles travelling from Bhadravati to Shivamogga have been advised to use the Bhadravati–Times International School route via Shivarama Nagar, Machenahalli Industrial Area, Malavagoppa and MRS Circle.

Authorities have urged motorists to follow the diversion signs and cooperate with traffic personnel until repair works are completed and normal traffic is restored.

CPM reaches out to Tharoor, adds new twist to saga

KS SREEJITH @T'Puram

IN a development that could significantly reshape Kerala's political landscape, the CPM has reportedly opened channels of communication with Congress's Thiruvananthapuram MP **Shashi Tharoor** amid his deepening rift with party leader Rahul Gandhi.

The CPM leadership is said to be exploring the possibility of Tharoor joining or associating the Left Democratic Front (LDF) by floating a new political party. Sources close to Tharoor said that he has not taken a final decision.

The CPM has also reportedly offered 15 seats if Tharoor associates with the LDF.

"Its only natural that other political parties would approach a leader like Tharoor, when his own party humiliates him and the issue becomes a national talking point," said a close associate. Final decision is expected to be taken after Tharoor- Rahul Gandhi meeting. Though *TNIE* tried to reach out to CPM state secretary MV Govindan and general secretary MA Baby, they were not available.

"The reported outreach comes against the backdrop of Tharoor skipping a key meeting convened by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul on January 23 in Delhi, following allegations that he was ill treated and insulted by Rahul at the party's 'Maha Panchayat' in Ernakulam.

In Kozhikode, Tharoor had said that he had some issues that would be discussed within the party. Tharoor and his camp are yet to respond to the reports of discussions with the CPI(M).

Tharoor later left for Dubai on Sunday, where, according to sources, a Dubai based businessman is acting as an intermediary in talks with CPM. Sources said the CPM and Tharoor are exploring the feasibility of him joining the LDF by floating a new political party.

However, LDF convener TP Ramakrishnan on Sunday denied reports of any discussion with Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on joining the CPI(M) and said "anyone who supports the Left stance would be welcomed".

ELEPHANT PARADE

Artistes participate in a Shiveli procession at the Ernakulam Shiva Temple in Kochi on Sunday | PTI

Padma Honours
Galore for South India

TN, Kerala, TG, AP & Odisha shone as distinguished personalities from diverse fields were honoured in this year's Padma Awards

TN TOPS IN S INDIA WITH 13 AWARDEES

TN has emerged with a significant share of honours in the 2026 Padma Awards, securing the second-highest number of awards with a total of 13 recipients. The awardees are: Shri SKM Maeilanandhan (Social Work), Shri Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy (Medi-cine) won Padma Bhushan. Padma Shri recipients include V Kamakoti (Science), K Vijay Kumar (Civil Service), HV Hande (Medicine), Sisters Gayatri Balasubramanian& Ranjani Balasubramanian (Arts), K Ramasamy (Science & Engineering) R Krishnan, Posthumo-us) (Art), Thiruvaarur Bakthavathsalam (Art), Rajastapathi Kaliappa Goundar (Art), Veezhinathan Kamakoti (Science & Engineering), Othuvaar Thiruthani Swaminathan (Art), Sivasankari (Literature & Education), Punniamurthy Natesan (Medicine).

DATTATREYUDU AMONG 8 FROM T'GANA

As many as nine people from Telangana received Padma awards. Nori Dattatreyudu, renowned oncologist, was awarded Padma Bhushan (medicine) under United States of America category, while Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar got Padma Shri under Literature and Education in Delhi category. Those Telanganites got Padma Shri included Gaddanugu Chandra mouli (Science and engineering), Deepika Reddy (Art), Guduru Venkata Rao (medicine), Krishna Murthy Balasubramanian (science and engineering), Kumaraswamy Thangaraj (science and engineering), Palkonda Vijay Anand Reddy (Medicine), Rama Reddy Mamidi (animal husbandry) and Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar (Literature and Education).

ODISHA SECURES 4 PADMA AWARDS

Four 'unsung heroes' from Odisha are among the 131 names chosen for the Padma Awards this year. The awardees are eminent educationist and folklorist Mahendra Kumar Mishra (73), Santhali researcher and educator Charan Hembram (76), renowned Prahallada Nataka artist Simanchal Patra (98) and master weaver and tie-and-dye artist Sarat Kumar Patra (60).

KUTUMBA SASTRY AMONG 8 OTHERS FROM AP

Among the awardees is Vempaty Kutumba Sastry (Literature & Education), a noted Sanskrit scholar and educationist, who has been conferred for his lifelong service to classical learning. Garimella Balakrishna Prasad (Art), also received the award for his contribution in setting tunes to a vast number of Annamacharya Sankeerthanalu, making them accessible to wider audiences. Veteran Telugu cinema actor Gadde Babu Rajendra Prasad has been honoured for his outstanding contribution to the field of arts. Another prominent personality Maganti Murali Mohan (Art) received the award for his contribution towards the cinema industry where he worked for over six decades.

EIGHT KERALA ICONS RECOGNISED

Eight individuals from Kerala have been selected for the awards. Three dignitaries received Padma Vibhushan- VS Achuthanandan (Public Affairs - Posthumous), Justice KT Thomas (Public Affairs), and P Narayanan (Literature and Education). Mammootty (Art) and Vellappally Natesan (Public Affairs) received Padma Bhushan and finally three dignitaries received Padma Shri award- AE Muthunayagam (Science and Engineering), Kalamandalam Vimala Menon (Art), and Kollakal Devaki Amma (Social Work).

SABARI GOLD THEFT

BJP to Sonia: Why meet prime accused?

AGENCIES @T'puram

KERALA BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Sunday said that Congress leader Sonia Gandhi should reveal the agenda behind her meeting with Unnikrishnan Potty, the prime accused in the Sabarimala gold loss case. Chandrasekhar displayed a photograph showing Sonia with Potty and questioned the purpose of the meeting. He alleged that the meeting took place when Sonia was Congress president and Oommen Chandy was the CM of Kerala.

"Gandhi and Congress should explain what was the agenda," he asked. Chandrasekhar also alleged that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had held a similar meeting with Potty, but no clear explanation has been given so far. He claimed that while the Congress projects organisations such as the Indian Union Muslim League and Jamaat-e-Islami as secular, it also held meetings in Delhi with a person accused of stealing gold from Sabarimala.

"What is the relationship between Sonia Gandhi, the Congress and Potty? We have been saying from the beginning that gold theft has been happening for the past 15 years," he said.

Vijay: TVK can fight Assembly polls alone

T MURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

EVEN as political alliances are taking shape in the DMK-led front and the AIADMK-led NDA, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay on Sunday said his party is ready to face the forthcoming Assembly elections on its own.

Addressing a meeting of TVK office-bearers to review poll preparations in Mahablipuram, Vijay also tore into the two Dravidian majors accusing them of being subservient to the BJP, saying that while the AIADMK has "overtly surrendered", the ruling party is "doing it covertly".

Vijay said TVK is a strong and self-reliant political force capable of contesting and winning elections independently, irrespective of alliances. He highlighted the role of women cadre in his party, stating that their commitment and resolve have already made a significant impact on the political landscape. The event marked Vijay's first public meeting since his address in Erode in December. This meeting came amid intense speculation over possible alliances for the fledgling party. In an indirect reference to the Jana Nayagan censorship controversy, Vijay said he would not "bow down to pressure". "Do you really think I am someone who will buckle under pressure? That will never happen."

Vijay said as elections approach, there is a tendency to underestimate the TVK. "Such underestimation is not new. It has continued for the past three decades. However, the people have always judged us correctly. With clarity and conviction, the people have given us our rightful space, including placing me at the highest point of my professional career, a fact witnessed by the entire nation. That trust must now translate into political responsibility," he added.

Vijay received a rousing welcome from office-bearers waving the party's newly allotted Whistle symbol on his arrival at the venue. Responding in kind, Vijay said the whistle is a symbol of victory. Senior leaders, including N Anand, Aadhav Arjuna, K A Sengottaiyan, K G Arunraj and C T R Nirmalkumar, also addressed the gathering.

EXPRESS READ

3 killed, 13 injured in road accident near Madurai

Madurai: Three passengers, including two women, were killed and more than 13 were injured after an omnibus rammed into another parked bus near Kottampatti in Madurai district at 5.30 am on Sunday. The driver of the omnibus is booked in connection with the case. The deceas-ed are M Kanagarajitham (62) from Thoothukudi, A Merisuja (50) from Kanniyakumari, and G Saisutharsan (23) from Kancheepuram. The injured are receiving treatment. Hospital sources said their condition is stable. Police said the omnibus driven by Vignesh (46) from Tirunelveli was parked on the NH at Silambukonpatti junction for the passengers in the morning. The bus was on its way to Marthan-dam in Kanniyakumari. **ENS**

SBI distributes clubfoot braces under CSR

Bengaluru: State Bank of India handed over 300 clubfoot braces for distribution to 150 children affected by clubfoot deformity, under its corporate social responsi-bility initiative towards the Early Intervention Programme in Kolar district recently. The braces will prevent relapse after correction and enable children to walk, move independently and lead normal lives. Chief General Manager, Bengaluru Circle, Joohi Smita Sinha, handed over the equipment to NGOs in the presence of General Manager (NW 1) VN Sarma, General Manager (NW 3) Praful-la Kumar Jena, General Manager (NW 2) Lekha Menon and other senior officials of the bank. **ENS**

Sparsh Hospital launches new bone marrow transplant unit in Hennur

Bengaluru: Sparsh Group of Hospitals has inaugurated a bone marrow transplant unit at its Hennur Road facility. The unit will provide transplant services for blood cancers and disorders including leukemia, thalassemia, lymphoma, and aplastic anemia. The facility comprises HEPA-filtered isolation rooms, stem cell processing infrastructure, and in-house diagnostic testing for infections and donor compatibility. SPARSH Group of Hospitals Chairman inaugurated the unit, Dr Sharan Shivaraj Patil, in the presence of hospital leadership, clinicians, and bone marrow transplant survivors.

Atal Innovation Centre opened at PIMS

Bengaluru: An Atal Community Innovation Centre was inaugurated at the Padmashree Institute of Management and Sciences on Thursday. The centre, set up under the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, was inaugurated by Jagadguru Dr Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji, pontiff of Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math. MLA C N Ashwath Narayan presided over the event while AIM director Deepak Bagla, Bangalore University Vice-Chancellor S M Jayakara and RGUHS Vice-Chancellor Dr B C Bhagavan were present. **ENS**

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

BID No. E-54/2025-26 Date: 24.01.2026

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have class-III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence: **S. No.; Tender No.; (Due Date); Description; PL No. and Quantity. 1; 02251127;** (19/02/2026); Exhaust Valve Flat Head; PL No. 16240066; 41589 Nos. **2; 03251024C**; (09.02.26); Cab floor secondary members kit; P L No. 29179993; 83 set. **3; 06251080A;** 13/02/26; 29178265; Complete Panel-A and Panel-D; 592 Nos. **4. 06251103;** 13/02/26; 29171416; C Panel Kit; 308 Set. **5. 09251197A;** Global Tender; (20/02/2026); CONTACTOR -1200AMP to PL No.(18140099); Qty. 41 Nos. **6. 09251203** (23/02/2026); Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of On-board KAVACH equipment AS PER RDSO SPEC. NO. RDSO/SPN/196/2020, VER 4.0 OR LATEST.to PL No. 29614170; Qty. 600 Sets. **7. 10251350;** 10/02/2026; Cast Turbo Inlet Scroll Assembly (Machined) Part No.- 16081481; 178 Nos. The details of above Tenders are available on website **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in. Corrigendum:- 8. 05255268**; 53; 21.01.2026; 28.01.2026. **9. 05255305**; 53; 21.01.2026; 28.01.2026. **Note:-** All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged for above tenders.

PRO/BLW/S-57 Principal Chief Material Manager

/blwvaranasi Website: blw.indianrailways.gov.in

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Government of Karnataka

Additional Chief Secretary to Government

Finance Department,

Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

No.: FD 25 JS(B&R) 2025 Date: 21.01.2026

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs. 6000 Crore [Rs. 2000 Crore - Re-issue of 7.32% SGS 2033; Rs. 2000 Crore- 5 Years 6 Months Tenure; Rs. 2000 Crore-9 Years 6 Months Tenure]
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)
3. Date of auction : January 27, 2026

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in**

Sd/- Joint Secretary to Government

(Budget & Resources)
Finance Department.

DIPR/DD-C.P/5140/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/Tr(Op)Z/SEE(O)/EEcivil/EOD-1/25-26/8316 Dated : 16.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works :

1) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3210 for providing wall panelling to CA Chamber in Prasarana Bhavana, FTS, Mysuru.

2) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3207 for providing and laying Chain link mesh at 66/11 Kv S/s Bilikere in Mysuru district.

3) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3206 for providing jelly spreading and construction of compound wall work to control building at 66/11Kv S/s Hunsur in Mysuru district.

4) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3200 for levelling the ground and providing jelly spreading at T.Narasipura 66/11Kv Station yard in Mysuru district - Reserved for CAT(II)A.

5) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3208 for reconstruction of damaged compound wall at 220/66Kv R/s at Kadakola in Mysuru district - Reserved for SC Category.

6) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3202 for providing jelly spreading and deck slab at Nanjanagudu 66/11Kv Station yard in Mysuru district.

7) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3209 for levelling the ground and providing jelly spreading at K.R.Nagara 66/11Kv Station yard in Mysuru district - Reserved for ST Category.

8) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3213 for construction of Boundary Compound and other allied works at 66/11Kv S/S Bylakuppe in Piriyapattana taluk, Mysuru district.

9) Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3211 for providing asphalt road to the Colony and Station at 220R/S Hootagalli, Mysuru District - Reserved for CAT(II)A.

10)Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3201 for providing asphalt road, security fencing and other allied road works at 66/11Kv S/S Mysuru South, Mysuru.

11)Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3205 for extension to control room building and other allied works at 66/11Kv Dundanahalli S/s in Maddur taluk, Mandya district.

12)Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3199 for construction of boundary fencing with toe wall and other allied works at 66/11Kv Halaguru S/s in Malavalli taluk, Mandya district - Reserved for ST Category.

13)Tender No: KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3198 for providing compound wall in front of lineman Quarters at 66/11kV Maddur sub-station in Maddur Taluk, Mandya District.

14)Tender No:KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3204 for drilling of borewell and water supply, submersible pump and pipe line to 220/66/11Kv R/s, Hebbani in Mandya district.

15)Tender No:KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3203 for construction of compound wall in front of AE/JE Quarters at Maddur in Maddur taluk, Mandya district.

16)Tender No:KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2482/CALL-3 for providing water pipeline to earth pit and allied works at 66/11kV S/s at Hannur, Bandally, Ramapura, Martally, Cowdally, Yelandur, Sathegala, Kollegala, Madhuvanahally, Gundlupete and Santhemarahally in Chamarajanagara district - Call-3

17)Tender No:KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2982/CALL-2 for construction of new control room building and other allied works at 66/11Kv Sub-station K.R.Nagara, Mysuru district - Reserved for SC Category - Call-2.

The tenders for the above works is invited through electronic mode. The interested bidders can obtain the application in electronic mode by paying the tender fee. The detailed notification regarding the above said enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.01.2026.** More details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana,
FTS Compound, N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007.

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING

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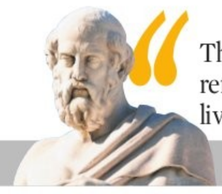
EDITORIAL



"The punishment which the wise suffer who refuse to take part in the government, is to live under the government of worse men" — Plato

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

GOVERNOR-GOVT RESTRAINT VITAL FOR FEDERAL PEACE

THE recurring friction between governors and elected state governments is no longer an episodic irritant but a persistent constitutional fault line in Indian democracy. Rooted in the ambiguous scope of Article 163 and repeatedly tested before the Supreme Court, this conflict has cycled through legislatures, Raj Bhavans and courtrooms without yielding a durable resolution. What has emerged instead are constitutional ceasefires rather than settlements. Recent episodes in three southern states add another chapter to this long-running dispute.

In Kerala, Governor Rajendra Arlekar amended and omitted portions of the policy address cleared by the cabinet, prompting Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to read the deleted sections himself. On the same day in Tamil Nadu, Governor R N Ravi declined to deliver his customary address and walked out of the Assembly, objecting to claims in the government-prepared text. In Karnataka, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot refused to address a joint sitting of the legislature, citing reservations about the content of the speech. Together, these incidents reopen fundamental questions about the presidential appointee's role within India's federal structure. Article 163 mandates that governors act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, except in narrowly defined discretionary areas. This exception, though constitutionally sanctioned, has become the fulcrum of repeated disputes. Governors are expected to function in step with an executive accountable to the legislature, yet political alignments often unsettle this balance. What is beyond dispute is that the office was never envisaged as a parallel centre of authority operating independently of the elected government. Recent confrontations indicate that this line has been increasingly crossed.

The Supreme Court, in a series of recent rulings on governors holding up legislation, has reaffirmed that constitutional authorities are answerable to the democratic will. This judicial guidance clarifies limits, but has not eliminated friction. In the context of policy addresses, it bears reiteration that while the governor delivers the speech, its content reflects the elected government's priorities, leaving little room for discretion. At the same time, governments would do well to avoid overt political signalling in what is intended to be a statement of policy, not partisan contestation. Contentious issues in a largely formal constitutional exercise are best resolved through dialogue and restraint, preferably away from public spectacle. When theatrics replace constitutional propriety, the immediate political gains come at the cost of federal trust.

COURT CAUTIONS MUST CREATE TRUST, NOT FEAR

THE Mumbai sessions court's intervention in the case of nine Tata Institute of Social Sciences students facing investigation for organising an 'unauthorised' event to mark the death anniversary of former Delhi University professor G N Saibaba raises serious concerns about the limits of law, academic freedom and civil liberties. While courts are duty-bound to uphold the law and public order, the judge's warning that the students' "careers would be ruined" if they acquired a criminal record goes beyond the bounds of judicial caution and risks sending a deeply discouraging message to young citizens.

Courts exist to adjudicate guilt, not to speculate on life outcomes. A judicial remark that equates the registration of an FIR with irreversible professional ruin blurs the crucial distinction between accusation and conviction. Such language risks deepening fear rather than strengthening respect for the law. In university spaces—where debate, dissent, and political engagement are integral to learning—this fear can have a chilling effect on legitimate expression. The issue here is not whether institutions may regulate campus events. They can, and students are expected to comply with established procedures. The concern is one of proportionality. Organising or attending a commemorative meeting does not, by itself, warrant the invocation of criminal law. When procedural lapses are treated as crimes, the law begins to appear punitive rather than corrective.

This case also reflects a broader and troubling pattern. Student activism and dissent are increasingly framed as security or law-and-order problems. Such an approach narrows democratic space and discourages young people from engaging with complex social and political realities. Universities are meant to be spaces for the contestation of ideas, not zones of constant surveillance and implicit threat. Warning students of permanent career damage further undermines the presumption of innocence. A criminal case is not a conviction. To suggest otherwise weakens faith in due process and shifts the focus from establishing facts to instilling fear—something the justice system is not meant to do.

Responsibility does not rest with one actor alone. University administrations must establish clear, transparent procedures for approving events and communicate them effectively. Students must be made aware of rules and consequences without intimidation. Law-enforcement agencies must exercise restraint and discretion, particularly in educational spaces. Ultimately, democratic societies are judged by how they treat dissent and youth engagement. Legal order matters, but so do the freedoms to think, assemble and remember. A measured response can—and must—protect both.

QUICK TAKE

MERIT UNMOORED

IN Uttar Pradesh, a 24-year-old NEET aspirant amputated his foot to qualify under the disability quota for an MBBS seat after failing the exam twice. It is an extreme act of personal desperation shaped by a belief that securing a medical seat justifies any means, even irreversible self-harm. At the other end stands institutional desperation. The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences recently slashed NEET-PG eligibility to zero percentile to plug thousands of vacant postgraduate seats, pass or fail notwithstanding. One desperation mutilates the body to enter medicine; the other dilutes standards to keep seats filled. Together they expose a regulatory logic that oscillates between exclusion and reckless accommodation, undermining merit.

Republic Day is a moment of pride and responsibility. Democracy survives on robust institutions, free media, and an independent judiciary, ensuring power is checked and justice reaches every citizen

UPHOLDING THE REPUBLIC STRONG, JUST AND EQUAL

KAPIL SIBAL
Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha

SOURAV ROY

EVERY year, as we celebrate our journey as a Republic, we renew our resolve to ensure that India's forward march is imbued with a sense of justice at all levels of governance. That India's voice is heard globally for the values of the Republic that it embraces. We also seek to ensure that our institutional mechanisms, which have served us all these years, stand firm and tall, and that central to our Republic's march forward is to ensure that, unlike the privileged few, access to opportunities and resources is available to those deprived.

It is, therefore, a time both for celebration and reflection. Our Constitution provided a roadmap for achieving a just political system, but more fundamentally, social and economic equality. It is for this reason that the Directive Principles of State Policy seek to ensure that the community's resources are not concentrated in a few hands.

The nation faced several crises in 1950. Only around 18 percent of India's population was literate. The country was bereft of an industrial base. A large part of our population was below the poverty line. Social inequalities were all pervasive, and the colonial power had exploited our resources. The task was Herculean.

Our visionary Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru dreamt of a strong and resurgent India. He visualised the emergence of modern science and technology as the only way of altering the lives and outlook of our people. He realised that large-scale scientific and industrial projects would need trained manpower. Towards this, he established India's first-ever Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kharagpur in 1950. Four more IITs came up by 1961, one each in Bombay, Madras, Kanpur and Delhi. Today, the IITs are ranked among the top 200 universities in the world.

He established the Atomic Energy Commission in 1948 to institutionalise and expand scientific research in atomic physics, followed by the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay, in 1954, which was later renamed the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in 1967.

The need for an industrial research ecosystem led to the setting up of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, with a network of 22 'national laboratories'. Recognising the need for entrepreneurial managers, he established the Indian Institutes of Management. To set the pace for medical education and research, he founded the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. He established the Indian Space Research Organisation, the Defence Research and Development Organisation, the National Institute of Design, the Life Insurance Corporation, and the Indian Statistical Institute. To raise agricultural production, he conceived big dams and set up the Damodar Valley Project in West Bengal and the then Bihar, the Hirakud Project in Odisha, and the famous Bhakra Nangal Dam, which he called the 'temple of modern India'.

Nehru knew that India lacked the skills and resources to build roads, buildings, bridges and dams. The private sector was non-existent. So, he took it upon himself to set up entities for indigenous production of steel, cement, paper, cables, heavy engineering and electrical goods, machine tools, railway wagons, cotton and textile, coal, oil, fertilisers and insecticides, tea, salt and a whole host of goods and materials to meet the demands of a nation, which was lagging in every aspect. That was the real 'Make in India' initiative of Nehru, as opposed to the present regime's 'Make in India', which is more of a hollow slogan.

It is because of his futuristic policies and vision that India stands today in the comity of nations. The relentless vilification of Nehru today comes only from those who are dwarfed by his vision, commitment and sacrifices.

The institutional mechanisms that he put in place were sought to be strengthened by the successive governments. But it was only when the country faced the need to mortgage its gold reserves that the then Prime Minister, P V Narsimha Rao, with Manmohan Singh as the then Finance Minister, decided to open up the economy. Public sector investments, along with the Green Revolution, which contributed to our food security, and the legislation that brought about a paradigm shift in societal inequalities, served the country well. The opening of the economy led to the private sector playing a far more significant role than it had in the past.

However, there was a paradigm shift after 2014, resulting in outcomes of some concern. The institutional mechanisms of our Republic have been weakened. Pliant bureaucrats have helped decimate the independence of institutions, including the Election Commission, the institution of governors and others. The infiltration of ideology-inclined individuals has impacted the independence of our universities and, to some extent, our judiciary. Some laws in place have been amended and implemented in ways that target elected representatives, including chief ministers, in opposition-ruled states.

History shows that countries that have invested in human capital and research and development have dominated global politics. We have, for years, chosen to ignore this lesson of history. Only when the country has the economic heft is it in a position to effectively negotiate terms of engagement with other countries. Absent that, the result is for all to see. We watch in silence while US President Donald Trump imposes tariffs on us at rates higher than those imposed on any other country, impacting our key exports. We seem to have lost our leadership of the Global South. We have not been able to befriend our neighbours as we did in the past. Our rate of growth is below optimal, and massive underemployment and unemployment have caused social unrest in the country.

It is time to shift our emphasis. It is time for us to speak up. The Republic can only be strengthened if the judiciary stands up to the pressures of legislation that allows the misuse of power for political ends. The ultimate strength of any Republic lies in two essential institutional mechanisms: the media and the justice delivery system. If these institutions get stymied, the Republic will lose its lustre. This is what we must reflect upon on January 26, 2026.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @KapilSibal)

SHANKARABHARANAM'S GRACE

RENUKA NARAYANAN
FAITHLINE

LONG live the Republic, dear readers. Our national anthem is based on Raga Shankarabharanam, and I thought you might like to revisit some of the legends about it, deeply enshrined in our shared cultural history. Shankarabharanam corresponds to the *Bilawal thaat* in Hindustani music, and to the C Major scale in Western music.

Shankarabharanam means 'the ornament of Shiva'. It is a healing raga in music therapy. Its vibrations are found to 'cure mental illness, soothe the turbulent mind and restore peace and harmony', which last feels most appropriate for our national anthem. Its healing power is considered a direct boon from Lord Shiva, who is the Vaidishvar, or god of doctors.

One hoary story from the *Brahmanda Purana* goes that Sage Narada wandered by Bhadragiri, the old name for Hosur in Tamil Nadu. There, he chanced upon a charming Shiv lila. The Lord had found great delight in the verdant beauty of Bhadragiri. Wanting to lure Devi Parvati there from Kailash, he turned himself into an iridescent iguana. She saw the beautiful creature sporting in the sunlight from afar. Whisking herself to Bhadragiri, Parvati began chasing the iguana. It teased her by running fast and slow. She managed to touch just the tip of its tail, and instantly her body was flooded with the beautiful green of ancient Bhadragiri.

She thus acquired the name 'Maragatha Valli', meaning the emerald-hued creeper or vine (*valli*, or vine, is also 'lata'). Narada went to Lord Brahma to ask for an explanation. He was delighted to learn about this playful lila that further layered the presence of the gods in the land. He went back and played Raga Shankarabharanam on Mahathe, his divine veena. Hearing his favourite raga played so beautifully, the Lord blessed Narada, who went away ecstatic to have obtained a peep into this play of the gods.

Another tale holds that in the 1820s, Shankarabharanam produced such ecstasy at the royal court of Thanjavur that the king, Raja Sarfoji, declared that the singer Narasaiyer would be called 'Shankarabharanam Narasaiyer' from that day onward. So, everyone took to calling him that, to his great gratification.

Once, when Narasaiyer needed a loan, he went to Rambhadra Moopanar, the zamindar of Kapisthalam in the Kaveri Delta. Moopanar was a big-hearted and hospitable host to many musicians. But, puffed up with pride, Narasaiyer grandly offered Raga Shankarabharanam as collateral for eighty gold guineas with a promissory note not to sing it until he had redeemed his debt. Hurt by Narasaiyer's attitude, the zamindar was equally businesslike and accepted his promissory note.

Soon after this unholy bargain, a powerful employee of the East India Company called 'Wallis Appuraya', after his English boss, invited Narasaiyer to perform at his home in the town of Kumbakonam. When Narasaiyer arrived, Appuraya requested that he sing Raga Shankarabharanam.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> Raga Shankarabharanam's giving spirit is deeply enshrined in our cultural history and has echoed through various legends. Its origins date back to when Narada witnessed Shiva-Parvati's playful lila in a predated Hosur and performed the raga on his divine veena, which pleased Lord Brahma

"But I've pledged not to sing it until I redeem my debt to Moopanar," confessed Narasaiyer.

"Bah, is that all?" said Appuraya and sent eighty gold guineas by a swift rider to Kapisthalam. The messenger returned with Moopanar hot on his heels, who not only returned the money to Appuraya but also chided Narasaiyer for not demanding the money as his cultural right.

These generous, diplomatic gestures by the two big men saved face all around and brought home to Narasaiyer how very silly and vain he had been to think that he owned the great raga. His heart smote him that he had demeaned himself and betrayed his music. He left the next morning and headed to the temple town of Kivalur.

An incredible story had rocked South India about Kivalur. The tale went that the 18th-century saint-composer Muthuswamy Dikshitar had gone to the Kivalur Shiva temple with a new composition. He asked the priest to let him present it to the Lord, but the priest was about to shut the temple for the afternoon and curtly said, "You can wait until we reopen, the deity isn't going anywhere."

So Dikshitar sat down calmly, facing the enormous carved wooden doors, and began to sing his new composition *Akshaya linga vibho* in Shankarabharanam. Passers-by were drawn at once to the music and sat down to listen as if under a spell. Dikshitar sang unhurriedly, each variation adding another rich layer to the song.

God, angels, and all humanity seemed to form a glorious company in the song. Every flowering plant seemed to bloom, and soft breezes to blow. The magical soundscape drew everyone into itself, and the people felt their sorrows fading. They began to feel healed, whole and happy, in that sanctuary of sound.

There was deep silence when the song ended, but before the people came out of their enchantment, the locked temple doors crashed open and swung heavily on their mediaeval hinges.

A collective gasp went up, and the priest, who had hung back to see what was going on, rushed forward in tears. He fell at Dikshitar's feet and said how sorry he was. The story spread from coast to coast, and Narasaiyer thought Kivalur would be the right place in which to apologise to Shankarabharanam.

Arriving there, Narasaiyer prayed to the Lord and the raga to forgive him his presumption. He dropped his title and sang better for it. Remembering the legends that vivified the land and the close, powerful ties that its people had with their music, he felt cleansed and healed. May that loving, giving spirit of Shankarabharanam keep us all united and happy.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Rejecting history

Ref: *Faintly recall a word... Was it 'peace'?* (Jan 25). The column is a quiet, unsettling reflection on our times, as it does not scream alarm but instead exposes how conflict has become our world's default grammar. What the piece captures powerfully is not merely the persistence of war but the normalisation of war-like thinking. When even institutions symbolising reconciliation become arenas of ideological battle, peace itself begins to sound archaic, almost naïve. When figures such as Bose and Swami Vivekananda are increasingly reimagined through myth and sensationalism, a deeper malaise surfaces—preference for mystery over meaning. This is not harmless nostalgia; it reflects a reluctance to engage with complexity, where belief replaces understanding and folklore substitutes history.
Sanjeev Jha, New Delhi

Humanity eroded

The poignant reflection hits home—amid endless wars in Gaza, Ukraine and beyond, 'peace' feels like a relic from dusty archives, overshadowed by aggression and division. This erodes our shared humanity, breeding cynicism in younger generations. Yet, reclaiming it starts with teaching history's lessons in schools, fostering empathy to bridge divides before conflicts ignite.
Abbharna Barathi, Chennai

Denounce genocide

Ref: *India votes against UN resolution* (Jan 25). Human rights are rights irrespective of country, race and religion which must be honoured by all. How would India have reacted had a resolution on the Pulwama massacre had gotten a similar response? Staring into a genocide does not align with any diplomatic principle.
Jayaprakash Reddy, Nalgonda

Nabin's playbook

Ref: *No-nonsense Nabin* (Jan 25). BJP always delivers jaw-dropping surprises which create a stir and Nabin's elevation is one such event. Though his age and credentials fit the bill, he seems to have been entrusted with the role too soon. Perhaps, he will only be playing an administrative role.
Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

Youthless Kerala

Ref: *19% Kerala population above 60* (Jan 25). It's not that there is regression in Kerala's birth rate. As industrial growth is yet to gain momentum in Kerala and other employment avenues are considerably low, the flight of youth abroad is unstoppable.
Thomas K Jerome, Kottayam

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**
Published by **N Gopalan** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 62, No. 22 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Mallikarjun Kharge @kharge
On behalf of the Indian National Congress, I convey my warm greetings and best wishes to each of you on the occasion of Republic Day.

Priyanka Chaturvedi @priyankac19
Instead of creating a negative atmosphere on campus, I urge that the UGC's notification be either withdrawn or amended as necessary.

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath
Heartiest congratulations to all the Padma Awardees whose distinguished service has strengthened India's intellectual, cultural and social foundations.

Developed India should be a shared goal: Murmu

In R-Day eve address, she says Constitution is base of national unity

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said that nation's development can be achieved only through shared responsibility and active support from society to government.

In her customary address to the nation on the eve of Republic Day, the President said, "Building a developed India is the shared responsibility of all citizens. Society holds immense power. Active support from society to government efforts leads to revolutionary change", she said, citing the success of UPI as an example of initiatives that flourished after being widely adopted by the people.

She further stated, "Our Constitution is the foundation of the largest republic in world history. The ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined in our Constitution define our Republic. The founding fathers of the Constitution have provided a strong foundation for the spirit of nationalism and national unity within the Constitution's provisions".

Speaking about government initiatives for women's empowerment, the President said, "The active and empowered empowerment of women is crucial for the nation's development. National efforts to improve their health, education, security, and economic empowerment have increased women's participation in many areas".

Referring to the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign, she said it has encouraged girls' education. She added that the proportion of women representatives in Panchayati Raj institutions is approximately 46%.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Act, which elevates women's political empowerment to new heights, will provide unprecedented strength to the vision of development through women's leadership. Women's power will play a crucial role in building a developed India", she said with confidence.

She noted that with increasing contributions from women, the country would exemplify an inclusive republic founded on gender equality.

The President also spoke about various schemes launched for the development of all sections of society. "With an inclusive approach, numerous schemes are being implemented for the welfare and development of the underprivileged.

'Right to vote embodies citizens' faith in democracy'

Noting that voting is "not merely a political expression," President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said it embodies citizens' faith in the democratic process and gives tangible shape to the Constitution's ideals of equality and justice. Addressing the National Voters' Day celebrations, the President also underlined that the right to vote is not only a hard-won entitlement, but also a responsibility that must be actively exercised.

Let's make top quality products, Modi tells youth in Mann ki Baat

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged young people associated with industry and start-ups to create more entrepreneurial ventures and place quality at the centre of India's growth story.

He said India's economy is advancing rapidly and attracting global attention, making it vital for all stakeholders to prioritise quality.

Calling for excellence to become the benchmark in manufacturing, Modi said Indian products must meet global standards and be synonymous with superior quality and zero defects. "Let us resolve to improve the quality of whatever we manufacture. Be it our textiles, technology, electronics or even packaging, an Indian product should become synonymous with 'top quality'," he said in the 130th edition of Mann Ki Baat.

Emphasising the need for consistency, he added, "The era of 'it just happens... it works... it will somehow get through' is now over. Let us prioritise quality with all our strength this year. Let quality be our sole mantra." Highlighting India's growing start-up ecosystem, the PM further added that the country has become the world's third-largest start-up hub.

He said Indian start-ups are working in areas that were unimaginable a decade ago, ranging from artificial intelligence and space to nuclear energy, semiconductors, mobility, green hydrogen and biotechnology. Praising the enthusiasm of young entrepreneurs, he said, "You name it and you'll find one Indian startup or the other working in that sector."

Reiterating his vision of 'Zero Defect, Zero Effect', Modi appealed to avoid any compromise on quality.

On the growing global acceptance of Indian culture and festivals, he said Indian festivals are being celebrated with joy in every corner of the world.

Indian start-ups working in diverse areas, says PM

Modi said Indian start-ups are working in areas that were unimaginable a decade ago, ranging from artificial intelligence and space to nuclear energy, semiconductors, mobility, green hydrogen and biotechnology.

INSIDER TRACK

Love, marriage & family posting

Love may be blind, but in Lutyens' Delhi, it clearly reads the fine print of cadre rules. Haryana and Punjab have become the most desirable marital destinations for IAS–IPS power couples, with the DoPT inbox groaning under pleas for inter-cadre transfers. The numbers tell a cosy tale: nearly 66 civil service couples now cluster across these two states, making them the hottest hubs of bureaucratic matrimony. Officers from West Bengal, Tripura, and UP are packing bags after tying the knot with Haryana or Punjab cadre partners. For instance, IAS officers Utsav Anand (UP: 2022) and Rahul Modi (TR: 2020) moved to Haryana after marrying fellow officers, while IPS officers Aditya S Waiter (MN: 2020), Vaibhav Choudhary (BH: 2020), and Akarshi Jain (KTK: 2020) shifted to Punjab. The message is clear: romance may bloom anywhere, but postings flourish best in the NCR neighbourhood.

Bengal's DGP: Badge stuck in court

West Bengal's long-running DGP suspense has finally hit the CAT countdown clock. With Acting DGP Rajeev Kumar inching towards his January 31, 2026, superannuation, the tribunal has sternly told the UPSC and Nabanna to stop circling the file and name a regular police chief by February 1. The state had already sent a generously long list of 10 IPS officers last July, Kumar included, from which three names were shortlisted. But the process skidded after senior IPS officer Rajesh Kumar challenged the selection, freezing the final call. Now, with CAT breathing down necks, Bengal's police top job has become less about seniority and more about surviving legal crossfire—badge included.

Manipur: Is Biren headed to Delhi?

Whispers are getting louder in saffron corridors as Manipur's political pause button nears expiry. With President's Rule running till February 13, the BJP high command is said to be weighing a reset—possibly nudging Chief Minister N. Biren Singh towards Delhi via national politics or a Rajya Sabha seat falling vacant in April. The real chatter, though, is about who steps into the Imphal spotlight next. Party insiders are floating Govind Das as the surprise frontrunner, pitching him as Manipur's answer to Himanta Biswa Sarma, citing his active political engagement and approach to addressing state-level challenges. If buzz is to be believed, a final call could come before January ends, signalling that Manipur's power shuffle may precede, not follow, the lifting of President's Rule.

God's address and a 'theka'

Courtroom gravity took a comic detour when Solicitor General Tushar Mehta spun a cheeky parable to challenge a Rajasthan High Court order targeting liquor vends near highways. Narrating the woes of a beggar ignored outside a temple, mosque and church, Mehta drew laughs as he revealed the man's fortunes changed only after parking himself outside a liquor shop. Donations jumped to ₹100 and ₹200, prompting the beggar's existential question to God: "Where do you live and what address do you give?" The anecdote landed squarely amid arguments against relocating over 1,100 'thekas' situated within 500 metres of highways.

Property returns rebels in the hot seat

The Archaeological Survey of India is fuming. Despite repeated reminders, several senior officers have ignored the mandatory Annual Immovable Property Returns. ASI's recent internal note warns that procrastinators risk more than just a scolding—they could lose vigilance clearance, miss out on sensitive postings, deputations, or training, and even face disciplinary action. The agency stressed: don't wait until the "last date." Non-submission could be treated as a "good and sufficient" reason for action. With top Group A and B officials among the defaulters, the ASI is clearly not messing around this year.

70 officers, soldiers get gallantry recognition for keeping country secure

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu has approved 70 gallantry awards for Armed Forces personnel on the eve of the 77th Republic Day, including one Ashok Chakra, three Kirti Chakras and 13 Shaurya Chakras, with six honours awarded posthumously.

The most prominent award this year is the Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry decoration, conferred on Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla for his role in India's human spaceflight mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in June, last year.

The Kirti Chakra, the second-highest peacetime gallantry award, has been awarded to Major Arshdeep Singh of the Armoured Corps (attached to 1 Assam Rifles), Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba of 2 Para (Special Forces), and Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair of the IAF.

The Shaurya Chakra, India's third-highest peacetime gallantry honour, has been awarded to 13 personnel, including officers from Para (Special Forces), Assam Rifles, Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, Mechanised Infantry and Rashtriya Rifles.

The defence ministry on Sunday said the list also includes one Bar to the Sena Medal (Gallantry), 44 Sena Medals (Gallantry), including five posthumous awards, six Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

In addition, President Murmu has also approved 98 Mentions-in-Despatches for Armed Forces personnel, including five posthumous mentions, in recognition of distinguished service and acts of bravery.

982 to receive gallantry & service medals

The MHA on Sunday released the list of 982 recipients Gallantry and service medals belonging to Police, Fire, Home Guard & Civil Defence and correctional service. In the Police category 121 personnel and four for Fire Service category have been selected.

Ordinary 'unsung' Indians get one-third of Padma awards

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

CONTINUING the trend initiated after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in 2014, this year's Padma Awards once again spotlight "ordinary Indians with extraordinary contributions", with 45 individuals selected for the Padma Shri in the 'unsung heroes' category, officials said on Sunday.

The awardees come from diverse backgrounds and fields, ranging from social work and education to science, medicine, art and culture. The list includes a former bus conductor who built the world's largest free-access library, a Mumbai-based paediatrician who established Asia's first human milk bank, and a 90-year-old tribal musician preserving a rare traditional instrument.

Among them is Anke Gowda, a 75-year-old bibliophile from Haralahalli village near Mysuru, Karnataka, who was once a bus conductor. He set up 'Pustak Mane', considered the world's largest free-access library, housing over two million books in 20 languages, along with rare manuscripts. He has been recognised for his efforts to promote learning and literacy across the country.

Another awardee is Armida Fernandes, a paediatrician from Mumbai, who founded Asia's first human milk bank, significantly improving survival prospects for premature and critically ill newborns. Also honoured are Bhagwandas Raikwar, a Bundeli war art trainer from Madhya Pradesh; Bhiklya Ladakya Dhinda, a 90-year-old tribal Tarpa player (a musical instrument made of bottle gourd and bamboo) from Maharashtra; and Brij Lal Bhat, a distinguished social worker from Jammu and Kashmir.

The list further includes Budri Thati, who established schools in Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh; Charan Hembram, a Santhali author and composer from Odisha; Chiranji Lal Yadav from Moradabad, known for his expertise in intricate brass engraving; Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya, an exponent of 'Maanbhatt', a traditional Gujarati performing art; and Kumarasamy Thangharaj, a Hyderabad-based geneticist who traced human migration from Africa to India.

According to officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), many awardees overcame severe personal hardships to excel in their fields and serve society. A majority come from marginalised communities, including Dalits, primitive tribal groups, and residents of remote and difficult regions.

Others honoured include K Pajanivel from Puducherry for nurturing Silambam, an ancient Tamil martial art, and veteran journalist Kailash Chandra Pant, recognised for over six decades of work promoting Hindi. Khem Raj Sundriyal from Haryana was awarded for preserving tapestry and Jamdani weaving, reviving the Panipat khes.

Cong terms Ahmed, Alvi 'new batch of betrayers pleasing new masters'

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

TERMING the dissenting leaders as "new batch of betrayers", the Congress on Sunday said that the attacks on the leadership, particularly Rahul Gandhi, are meant to please their new political masters.

In a sharp response to criticisms, Congress MP Manickam Tagore said, "At a time when the Congress needed unity, voices like Shakeel Ahmed and Ex-BSP's Rashid Alvi who joined the "New Batch of Betrayers" have chosen to attack the very leader who walked 4,000+ km to defeat hate and spread love, and 6,000 km through the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra to reconnect India with justice and dignity. Let's be clear: These attacks are not about ideology or concern. They are about TV time, relevance, and pleasing new masters," he said.

Former Congress leader Shakeel Ahmed sparked a row on

Saturday, alleging that there's "no internal democracy" in Congress and Rahul Gandhi wants to 'throw out' the senior leadership of the party.

In a similar vein, Congress leader Rashid Alvi raised concerns over the internal functioning of the party, saying that the lack of an effective platform for dialogue and limited access to top leadership has created a serious communication gap. Speaking to the media, Alvi noted that Muslim leaders' exit was not driven by the lure of power, unlike several others who left to join BJP.

People paying heavy price for pollution: Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that people are paying a heavy price for air pollution with their health, and urged people to write to him on how it has affected the lives of crores of Indians.

In a post on X, Gandhi urged people to speak up against air pollution. "We are paying a heavy price for air pollution — with our health and with our economy. Crores of ordinary Indians bear this burden every day," said Gandhi.

He further asked people to share the story of "how air pollution has affected you or your loved ones" at https://rahulgandhi.in/awaazbharatki.

He lent ear to nation, then the nation heard him

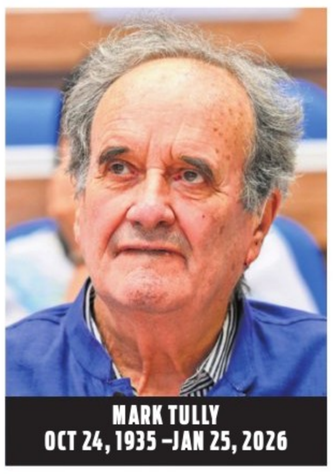
VVP SHARMA @ New Delhi

THE voice of the Englishman from Tollygunge has fallen silent.

Mark Tully passed away at a Delhi hospital at 90 on Sunday. He leaves behind a formidable legacy as one of BBC's most trusted chroniclers: for decades, listeners across South Asia grew into the habit of tuning in to Tully, awaiting his voice to confirm events and trusting his account as the measure of truth.

Born in Kolkata to British parents, Tully spent his early years in India before being sent to England for education. He returned in 1964 as the BBC's India correspondent and eventually became Bureau Chief in New Delhi, a post he held for nearly three decades and reported on the birth of Bangladesh, military rule in Pakistan, the Tamil Tigers' insurgency in Sri Lanka, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Tully's reporting was distinguished by both authority and empathy. He covered some of



MARK TULLY
OCT 24, 1935 –JAN 25, 2026

India's most turbulent moments: the Emergency of 1975–77, Operation Blue Star, the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the anti-Sikh violence that followed, and the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992. Generations of listeners, who affectionately called him "Tully Sahib", relied on his thoughtful analysis and precise narration to understand events often mired in chaos. His integrity sometimes placed him in danger: Andrew Whitehead, a former BBC colleague, recalled Tully's peril in Ayodhya in 1992, when a mob threatened him, chanting "Death to Mark Tully", and he was locked in a room for hours before being rescued by a local official and a Hindu priest.

A prolific writer, among his important works are No Full Stops in India (1988), which collected decades of reflections on the nation he chronicled so faithfully, India in Slow Motion (1998), and Nonstop India (2003), each offering insightful, empathetic portraits of India's social, political, and cultural life.

Tully's career also highlighted the BBC's evolving relationship with India. According to the BBC History series, the corporation's legacy as a former imperial broadcaster and its enduring credibility with Indian audiences after independence created a complex relationship with successive Indian governments. In 1970, the airing of two Louis Malle documentaries sparked strong objections from both the Indian government and the diaspora in Britain, leading to the BBC's expulsion from India until 1972.

Despite occasional criticism for being too indulgent of India's inequalities, Tully remained committed to fairness and to conveying the nation's diversity and resilience. He was knighted in 2002 and received the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan—a rare dual recognition of a life spent bridging two nations. Though he retained British citizenship, he later became an Overseas Citizen of India, describing himself as belonging to both countries.

In his passing away, India has lost one of its most perceptive and affectionate witnesses. But the clarity, compassion, and insight that characterised his work will continue to resonate with the nation.

He is survived by the countless listeners, readers, and colleagues whose lives he touched, and by the example of a journalist who understood that to tell a nation's story fully, one must first listen to it.

TRAMPLED

A 27-year-old man was trampled to death by wild elephants in Jharkhand's Bokaro, police said on Sunday. The incident happened in Darhabeda village on Saturday night.

2 KILLED AS SCOOTER COLLIDES WITH CAMPER IN JAISALMER

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	17	Mumbai	28	24
Bhopal	25	14	Panaji	32	22
Jaipur	19	07	Patna	23	12
Amritsar	11	07	Lucknow	21	10
Chennai	28	25	Port Blair	30	25
Kolkata	27	18	Imphal	23	09
Srinagar	03	-5	Chandigarh	16	08

Mumbai prof killed at platform for trivial argument inside local train

Accused, a daily wage labourer, was arrested shortly after on basis of tech surveillance

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE Government Railway Police (GRP) on Sunday arrested a 27-year-old daily wage labourer in connection with the fatal stabbing of a professor at a crowded railway station in Mumbai within 12 hours of the crime, officials said.

A 33-year-old junior college professor was stabbed to death inside a Mumbai suburban local train on Saturday evening following a verbal altercation over alighting at a crowded station, police said. The incident occurred around 6 pm on a Borivali–Churchgate-bound slow local train as it was entering Malad station in the western suburbs. Accused Omkar Shinde (27), who works in Kurar, has no prior criminal record, officials said.

The victim, Alok Kumar Singh, was a mathematics professor at Narsee Monjee Commerce and Economics College, a junior college located in suburban Mumbai. Police said Singh sustained a single deep stab injury to the abdomen, which proved fatal.

According to officials, Singh had boarded the local train from Vile Parle station along with a college colleague. As the train slowed down at Malad, Singh, a resident of the area,

attempted to get off. At that point, a verbal argument broke out between him and co-passenger Shinde over space and movement near the train door. "Shinde wanted to leave the train quickly as he was heading home to celebrate his wife's birthday. The argument escalated inside the crowded second-class compartment. After both men got down on the platform, Shinde allegedly pulled out a knife from his pocket and stabbed Singh on the right side of his stomach, before fleeing the spot," police said.

The attack took place on platform number one at Malad station. Singh collapsed soon after the assault and was rushed to Shatabdi Hospital, from where he was shifted to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Hospital in Borivali. Doctors declared him dead on arrival, citing a six-inch-deep abdominal wound. Police later informed Singh's family and his wife.

Using CCTV footage from the station premises and other technical inputs, GRP officials identified the accused. The footage showed a man wearing a white shirt and blue jeans, appearing panicked and running across the foot-over bridge at Malad station shortly after the stabbing.

Shinde was arrested shortly after on the basis of technical surveillance and confidential information, police said. A case has been registered against him under Section 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Singh hailed from Uttar Pradesh but had completed his education in Mumbai. He held a BSc and MSc in Mathematics from Mumbai University and had been teaching mathematics and statistics at the junior college since 2024. He had married around two years ago, and his wife is currently preparing for a B.Ed degree, aspiring to enter the teaching profession, officials said. Family members said Singh was a soft-spoken and calm individual, who never got angry and his killing has left them devastated. His father, Sunil Singh, previously worked with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while his uncle was a teacher at a BMC-run school, they said.

College colleagues described Singh as dedicated and good-natured, saying it was difficult to believe he could be involved in a violent confrontation.

While arguments and occasional scuffles among commuters are not uncommon in Mumbai's heavily congested local train network, officials said the fatal stabbing marks a disturbing escalation.

In July last year, a video emerged on social media, showing a fist fight between two women after one of them allegedly hit the other one with her elbow in an attempt to board the train first.

How matter escalated

Alok Kumar Singh had boarded the local train from Vile Parle station. As the train slowed down at Malad, Singh, a resident of the area, attempted to get off. At that point, a verbal argument broke out between him and co-passenger Omkar Shinde over space and movement near the train door. After both men got down, Shinde stabbed Singh

With 3 deaths in 4 days, Indore residents upset with corporator, toll 28

The negligence, corruption and arrogance of the BJP government have poisoned the water, claiming the lives of 28 innocent people

MP Cong chief

Row over the cause

While bereaved families claim the deaths were due to diarrhoeal outbreak, the Indore district's chief medical and health officer says the three deaths were caused due to various health problems

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

DEATHS from contaminated water triggered diarrhea in Bhagirathpura area of the country's cleanest city Indore, continue to be a serious concern. Over the last four days, three elderly residents of the locality have died.

While bereaved families claim that the deaths were due to diarrhoeal outbreak, the Indore district's chief medical and health officer has maintained that the three deaths were caused due to age-related and other health issues.

As per media reports and Congress's state president Jitu Patwari, with three more deaths in the last four days, the death toll from the area has now touched 28, with 75-year-old local Congress leader Rajaram Bhaurasi being the latest victim. The Indore CMHO Dr Madhav Hassani has categorically denied the allegations, saying that all the three recent deaths happened due to other illnesses and not following diarrhoea or associated complications.

"The reports of Rajaram Bhaurasi, particularly revealed that he was not suffering from diarrhoea (vomiting and upset stomach), but was instead an old cardiac and diabetes patient," the Indore CMHO maintained in an official statement released on Sunday. The state Congress chief, however, posted on X, "I must say that our party's ward chief Rajaram Bhaurasi passed away, due to drinking contaminated water. The negligence, corruption and arrogance of the BJP government have poisoned the water, claiming the lives of 28 innocent people so far."

Prior to Bhaurasi's death, two more elderly residents of the locality—82-year-old Vidya Bai, and 63-year-old Badri Prasad—died on Thursday and Friday respectively. Vidya Devi's kin alleged that she had been down with acute diarrhoea and associated health problems. Just a day later, 63-year-old Badri Prasad died at the same private hospital where Vidya Bai had died on Thursday.

AHMEDABAD DIARY

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
Our correspondent in Gujarat
dilipsingh@newindianexpress.com

228 'living' voters' plaint against BJP corporator

A political storm has erupted in Gujarat's Surat after 228 residents of Salabatpura filed a written complaint at the police station, accusing a BJP corporator of Ward No. 25 of attempting to "erase living voters" from the electoral roll. The controversy follows the release of the SIR draft voter list, which Congress claims is being manipulated to cancel names. Locals allege Form No. 7 was misused to declare alive voters as "dead," particularly in Congress-dominated areas. In Limbayat alone, 31,000 Form 7 applications have surfaced, triggering demands for legal action and an FIR against BJP corporator.

Congress infighting turns into big social war

A simmering rift within the Gujarat Congress has spilled onto the social battlefield, threatening to upset caste equations ahead of local body polls. What began as a dispute over the Patan District SC Morcha president has escalated into a sharp Dalit–Patidar face-off, with MLA Jignesh Mevani and Patidar leader Kiritbhai Patel at the centre. Mevani's controversial remark on Patel's protest has angered the Patidar community, prompting leaders Varun Patel and Dinesh Bambhania to enter the fray. With tempers rising, the Congress high command faces mounting pressure to contain damage before it turns electorally costly in North Gujarat.

Top IAS officers moved, more transfers likely

In a big shake-up, the Gujarat government has reshuffled three senior IAS officers, signalling fresh administrative recalibration. Shalini Agarwal (2005 batch) has been moved from Surat Municipal Corporation to Gandhinagar as MD, Energy and Petrochemicals Department, along with Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited, ending IAS Jenu Devan's additional charge. M Nagarajan (2009 batch) has been shifted from Ahmedabad to Surat as the new Municipal Commissioner, relinquishing his additional urban development responsibilities. Meanwhile, Dr Rajendra Kumar (2004 batch) has been appointed VCMD of GSRTC.

Tejashwi becomes RJD working president amidst sister's 'puppet prince' jibe

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

LEADER of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav was on Sunday appointed RJD's working president in view of party chief Lalu Prasad's health conditions.

A decision to that effect was taken in the RJD's national executive meeting, held in Patna. Tejashwi's elevation comes at a time when it was most needed, as the party suffered a humiliating defeat in the last Assembly election. The development is seen as a major organisational shift amid concerns over founder Lalu Prasad's health. The executive committee meeting was attended by senior leaders, including Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi, Misha Bharti, and other top functionaries of the party.

Bihar RJD chief Mangani Lal Mandal formally announced Tejashwi's appointment as the party's working president. Taking to X, the party wrote: "Dawn of a New Era! Shri Tejashwi Yadav Ji has been appointed as the National Executive President of Rashtriya Janata Dal." Lalu praised Tejashwi's "work efficiency."

Addressing the executive meeting, Tejashwi said that he would make attempts to discharge the responsibility given

'MUCH NEEDED'

1. His elevation comes when it was most needed
2. The party suffered a humiliating defeat in the last Assembly election
3. It marks an organisational shift amid growing concern over Lalu's health

to him with full sincerity.

Soon after Tejashwi was appointed as RJD's working president, his estranged sister Rohini took a jibe at him and wrote on'X', "The pinnacle of politics - in a way, the grand finale of a man's (Lalu's) glorious innings, congratulations to the sycophants and the "Infiltrator Gang" on the coronation of the "prince turned puppet in their hands".

Muslims safer than earlier due to Hindus: Ajmal

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

PERFUME baron and Assam's minority-based party All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) chief Maulana Badruddin Ajmal on Sunday said the Muslims in India are safer than ever before as the Hindus are standing by them. He slammed CM Himanta Biswa Sarma for his "Miya" politics and appealed to Muslims not to vote for the BJP. Miya is a pejorative term used for Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam.

"Muslims are safer than ever before in entire India. They have nothing to fear because the Hindus are standing by them," Ajmal said. "If one Himanta shouts, a jungle doesn't get emptied. Let him shout Miya, Miya," he added.

The former Dhubri MP also slammed the Congress for giving a 100% "walkover" to the BJP by ignoring its traditional tea garden seats as the state readies for Assembly elections, expected in March or April.

"If the Congress wins 23 seats, can it form the government?" Ajmal asked, referring to constituencies dominated by the Muslims where the Congress has been active. He accused the party of playing a dirty game. Ajmal said the possible division of Muslim votes would cost the community dear.

Mamata calls EC's celebration of voters' day 'a tragic farce'

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

WEST Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Sunday once again slammed the Election Commission of India (ECI), terming its celebration of National Voters' Day as a 'tragic farce' and asserting that it has no rights to celebrate the day.

Sharpening her attack, the CM said that the national poll panel is bulldozing the oppositions and destroying the foundation of the country's democratic structure on 'behalf of the BJP."

In a social media post the ruling Trinamool Congress chief said, "The Election Commission of India is celebrating National Voters' Day today, and what a tragic farce that is! The Commission -- working as His Master's Voice-- is busy now in snatching away people's voting rights, and they have the temerity to celebrate Voters' Day! I am deeply distressed and disturbed by their conduct today." Mamata also said, "The poll body is finding newer and newer pretexts in the name of logical discrepancy to harass the people and trying to deny them and take away from them their electoral rights!"

"On behalf of BJP, their Master, they are busy in bulldozing the Opposition and destroying

the foundation of Indian democracy, and yet they have the guts to celebrate Voters' Day!!" she wrote on X handle post.

The CM has been accusing the EC of holding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal in undue haste. She has already written five letters to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) since November last year urging him to stop the SIR exercise that has allegedly caused deaths of 126 people including Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and common citizens because of panic, stress and strains and workload in the state. Earlier in the day, the ruling party in the state took out protest rallies in several districts, demanding the inclusion of all legal voters in the electoral rolls.

Was harassed in SIR hearing, says Bengal min

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

WEST Bengal industry minister Shashi Panja—who also holds the women and child welfare portfolio in the Mamata Banerjee Cabinet—on Sunday alleged that she was harassed during a hearing for the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in the state.

Panja had been served a notice by the Election Commission (EC) asking her to appear for an SIR hearing at Keshab Academy in north Kolkata as she reportedly did not fill up the enumeration form giving proper details as per the guidelines of the commission.

After coming out of the centre where the hearing was under way, she told a gathering of reporters, "Even though we are a family of four, only I was called for the hearing."

She further expressed, "I showed them my Aadhaar Card, but they wanted to know if I had any other document required for the SIR. This a sheer harassment for me."

Jams, power outage greet visitors in Manali

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

INCESSANT snowfall in Himachal Pradesh has caused major disruptions, including a 15-km-long traffic grid near Manali. Power outages, road blockages and large-scale stranding of tourists and locals were reported from districts.

According to sources, more than 600 tourists were stranded along the Patlikul-Manali stretch. As many as 835 roads, including three national highways, remained closed for traffic movement in the state as a result of heavy snowfall.

As per the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) bulletin, about 282 roads, including NH 3 (Leh-Manali) and NH 505 (Kaza-Gramphu), are blocked in the tribal district of Lahaul and Spiti. A total of 234 roads are closed in Shimla, 110 in Mandi, 78 in Chamba,65, including NH 305 (Sainj-Luhri-Aut) in Kullu; 41 in Sirmour; 18 in Kinnaur; four and three in Kangra and

Vehicles remain stuck in a long traffic jam as heavy snowfall chokes highways and roads, leaving tourists stranded near Himachal's Manali on Sunday | PTI

Una, respectively.

Additionally, around 1,942 transformers were disrupted across the state, which include 789 in Shimla district, 354 in Sirmour, 284 in Mandi, 277 in Chamba, 174 in Kullu, 27 in Lahaul and Spiti, and 23 in Solan, leaving thousands of households without electricity.

Light snowfall and rain were observed at isolated places in the higher reaches on Sunday, while the weather in most parts of the state was dry.

Also, cold wave conditions were observed in Manali, Una, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi and Bilaspur. The lowest temperature, 10 degrees Celsius, was recorded at Tabo village in the Lahaul and Spiti district.

The Met Office has predicted another spell of heavy snowfall in the higher reaches from Monday onwards.

Avalanche alerts in high-altitude U'khand districts

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

AUTHORITIES in Uttarakhand have issued avalanche warnings for several high-altitude districts following alerts from the Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE). The warnings underscore unstable snow conditions, prompting disaster management teams across the affected regions to mobilise resources.

Further, the Defence Geospatial Information Research Establishment (DGRE) has released a specific bulletin indicating varied threat levels across the Himalayan state.

District administrations have placed wings of the State Disaster Management Department on high alert.

Keep tourists away from Green Cave, environmentalists warn C'garh govt

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE Chhattisgarh government has decided to open the rare and ecologically sensitive 'Green Cave' in Kanger Valley National Park in the once Maoist-affected Bastar district to tourists, a move that has drawn strong objections from scientists and experts.

With Maoist activity in the region having significantly declined, the state is exploring ways to place more sites from Bastar on the national and international tourism map, viewing the Green Cave as a potential attraction.

"The cave's inclusion would boost local employment opportunities and accelerate regional development. It will add a new dimension to tourism in the valley," State Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap said.

The naturally formed Green Cave, located in the Kotumsar

area, has evolved over thousands to millions of years through geological and hydrological processes.

Experts said it survives only under highly specific natural conditions, including brief daily exposure to sunlight, constant temperature, very high humidity and low nutrient availability.

Scientists cautioned that such cave ecosystems are among the most fragile in the world, functioning as closed and stable systems where even minor disturbances can cause irreversible damage. "Increased dust, noise, vibration and altered humidity due to tourist footfall can lead to both immediate and long-term impacts on the cave environment," said Prof Mahesh G. Thakkar, Director of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow.

Nitin Singhvi, an environmental enthusiast, has lodged a complaint with the Additional Chief Secretary (Forest), warning that tourism would introduce excess carbon dioxide, heat, moisture, dust and vibration, altering the cave'sinternal chemistry and damaging its green microbial layers.

1,80,000 displaced as fresh conflict in South Sudan kills many

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	29	23	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	27	16	TDS	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	22	SNY	New York	2	-3	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	27	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	-6	-8	SNY
London	12	8	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

MINNEAPOLIS SHOOTING TRIGGERS STIR AGAINST US IMMIGRATION CRACKDOWN

Democrats seek removal of federal agents, as judge blocks evidence tampering

MINNEAPOLIS

DEMOCRATS demanded that federal immigration officers leave Minnesota after a US Border Patrol agent fatally shot a man in Minneapolis, drawing hundreds of protesters onto the frigid streets and increasing tensions in a city already shaken by another shooting death weeks earlier. Family members identified the man who was killed as Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old intensive care unit nurse who protested President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown in his city. After the shooting, an angry crowd gathered and protesters clashed with federal officers, who wielded batons and deployed flash bangs.

A federal judge has already issued an order blocking the Trump administration from "destroying or altering evidence" related to the shooting, after state and county officials sued. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said the suit filed Saturday is meant to preserve evidence collected by federal officials that state authorities have not yet been able to inspect. A court hearing is scheduled for Monday in federal court in St Paul.

A person holds up their hands as law enforcement deploys a thick screen of teargas on Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis | AP

"A full, impartial, and transparent investigation into his fatal shooting at the hands of DHS agents is non-negotiable," Ellison said in a statement.

Spokespersons for the Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security, which are named in the lawsuit, didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Sunday. Another federal judge previously ruled that officers participating in the federal immigration enforcement surge in Minnesota can't detain or tear gas peaceful protesters who aren't obstructing authorities, including when these people are observing the agents.

The Minnesota National Guard was assisting local police at the direction of Gov. Tim Walz, officials said. Guard troops were sent to both the shooting site and a federal building where officers have squared off with demonstrators daily. Information about what led up to the shooting was limited, Police Chief Brian O'Hara said. *AP*

Don's Greenland plan splits MAGA, Europe's far right

BRUSSELS

TENSIONS over US President Donald Trump's plans to take control of Greenland have driven a wedge in the once iron-clad link between MAGA and Europe's far-right.

The rift seems to signal that ideological alignment alone may not be enough to temper worries among European nationalists over Trump's interventionism abroad.

Far-right leaders in Germany, Italy and France have strongly criticised Trump's Greenland plans. Even Nigel Farage, a long-time ally of Trump and head of the Reform UK nationalist party, called Trump's Greenland moves "a very hostile act."

During a debate Tuesday in the European Parliament, far-right lawmakers typically aligned with Trump overwhelmingly supported halting a EU-US trade pact over their uneasiness with his threats, calling them "coercion" and "threats to sovereignty." Such a divergence between Trump and his European acolytes came as some surprise.

Far-right parties surged to power in 2024 across the European Union, rattling the traditional powers across the bloc's 27 nations from Spain to Sweden.

Their political groupings now hold 26% of the seats in the European Parliament, according to the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. *AP*

Iran's new mural warns US against military strike

DUBAI

A new mural unveiled in a central Tehran square on Sunday contains a direct warning by Iran to the United States to not attempt a military strike on the country. The painted image of several damaged planes on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier bears the slogan: "If you sow the wind, you will reap the whirlwind."

The unveiling of the mural in Enghelab Square comes as the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier and accompanying warships move towards the region. Donald Trump has said the ships are being moved "just in case" he decides to take action."We have a massive fleet heading in that direction and maybe we won't have to use it," Trump said on Thursday.

Enghelab Square is used for gatherings called by the state, and authorities change its mural based on national occasions. On Saturday, the commander of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard warned that his force is "more ready than ever, finger on the trigger." *AP*

EXPRESS READ

UK to create 'British FBI' for major crime probes

LONDON: The British government said it will unveil plans this week to create a National Police Service, dubbed the "British FBI," to handle complex investigations including counterterrorism, fraud, online child abuse and organised crime. The new body will bring existing national crime and terrorism units under one umbrella and ease pressure on local forces, Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that our client Mr. BME Rahmathulla Khan S/o S/o Enayathulla Khan, # 68, 1st Stage, 1st Block, 3rd Main Road, HBR Layout, Bengaluru-43, intend to purchase the below mentioned property from his Vendor Sri. SYED AFTAB AHMED, aged about 40 years, S/o. Mr. Syed Mehmood Ahmed, #156, Mackan Compound, 3rd Cross, Bharathi Nagar, Bengaluru-560001, Persons objecting for the said purchase or having any right, title, claim and interest in the said property may lodge their objections and/or claims, with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within 7 days from the date of publication, failing which our client will proceed to purchase and complete the transaction of the below mentioned property and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All the pieces and parcels of the vacant site bearing Vacant site bearing BDA No.773, BBMP PID No.73087144872, measuring East to West 60 Feet (18.28 Mtrs) and North to South 40 Feet (12.19 Mtrs), in all totally measuring 2400 Square Feet (222.83 Sq Mtrs), carved out in Sy No.24/5, 6, 7A, 7B, 8, 25, 26/1, 2, 3B, 33/1, 34/1, 2, 35/1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 37/2, 3, 6, 38/1, 48/1B, 49/3, 50/4, 51/2, 52/1, 76/3A, 3B, 77/3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 78/2, 6, 79, 81/1 (Part), 85/8, 86, 87/1, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 87/3, 87/4 & 88/5, situated at Nagawara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk in the layout formed by the Vyalikaval House Building Co-Operative Society Limited, together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and the site is bounded as follow:

East by : Site bearing No.786; West by : Road; North by : Site bearing No.772; South by : Site bearing No.774.

RIZWAN ASSOCIATES
No.5/1, Bilal Complex, Nagawara Main Road Bilal Nagar, Bangalore-560045.
Mobile: 9448988445, 9036431380

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR CLAIM AGAINST SALE OF PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that my Client Sri. Suresh Govindachari and Smt. Monisha Lobo Suresh have intended to Purchase the Schedule Property from Sri. Mathew Sebastain & Others, free from all encumbrances. Any Person / Institutions/ Banks having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in any manner with respect of the Schedule Property, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned within Seven (07) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

-: SCHEDULE PROPERTY :-

All that piece and Parcel of agricultural land bearing Sy. No. 78/1, measuring to an extent of 01 Acre 25 Guntas, situated at Challahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Hobli (Old Bangalore North Taluk), Bengaluru and bounded on:-

East by : Sy. No. 79/1; West by : Sy. No. 77/1; North by : Land of Mumtaj; South by : Land of Gundappa.

GOWRISHANKAR E. ADVOCATE
Office at: GSE Associates,
No. 21, 17th Main Road, Raghavanagar, NTY Layout, Bangalore - 560026.
Mobile: 9535286036

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BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, BENGALURU
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bengluru - 560 001
T.A. No.9/2023

Between:UCO Bank, HSR Layout, No. 252, 14th Main, 7th Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560 102. ...Applicant
And
Mrs.Padmavathi @ Padma Madhu Kumar ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT Nos. 1 & 2 UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, OF 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, 1. Smt. Padmavathi @Padma Madhu Kumar W/o. Sri Madhu Kumar H.N., 51A, 1st Floor, 1st 'A' Main, 1st Cross, 1st Stage, KHB Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore - 560 079.
Also at : M/s. Sumukha Engineering and Construction 29, Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560 022.
2. Mr. Madhu Kumar H. N. S/o. Sri Narayanaswamy Hassan, 51A, 1st Floor, 1st 'A' Main, 1st Cross, 1st Stage, KHB Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Kamakshi palya, Bangalore - 560 079.
Also at : M/s. Sumukha Engineering and Construction 29, Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560 022.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the above defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.53,39,318.75** (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Eighteen and Paise Seventy Five Only) amount together with current and future interest, costs & other reliefs.

Take notice that you are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of service of summons through Paper Publication on **20.03.2026 at 10.30 A. M.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **20.01.2026**

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II Bengaluru

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, BENGALURU
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bengluru - 560 001
T.A. No.10/2023

Between:UCO Bank, HSR Layout, No. 252, 14th Main, 7th Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560 102. ...Applicant
And
Mrs.Padmavathi @ Padma Madhu Kumar ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT Nos. 1 & 2 UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, OF 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, 1. Smt. Padmavathi @Padma Madhu Kumar W/o. Sri Madhu Kumar H.N., 51A, 1st Floor, 1st 'A' Main, 1st Cross, 1st Stage, KHB Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore - 560 079.
Also at : M/s. Sumukha Engineering and Construction 29, Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560 022.
2. Mr. Madhu Kumar H. N. S/o. Sri Narayanaswamy Hassan, 51A, 1st Floor, 1st 'A' Main, 1st Cross, 1st Stage, KHB Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Kamakshi palya, Bangalore - 560 079.
Also at : M/s. Sumukha Engineering and Construction 29, Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560 022.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the above defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.53,39,360.47** (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty and Paise Forty Seven Only) amount together with current and future interest, costs & other reliefs.

Take notice that you are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of service of summons through Paper Publication on **20.03.2026 at 10.30 A. M.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **20.01.2026**

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II Bengaluru

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, KARNATAKA
4th Floor, BSNL Building, Telephone House ,Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001
O.A. No.263/2020

Between: State Bank of India ...Applicant
And
Mr. B.N. Karthik & Another ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993, TO THE DEFENDANT

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.34,89,043 /-** (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Forty Three only) together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or **on 27.02.2026 at 10.30 a.m.**, in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **15.12.2025**

Sd/- Registrar (DRT II)
Authorised to Issue Summons

The Defendant/s
1. Mr. B. N. Karthik, No. 94, H. Byadarahalli, Channapatna, Ramngara Dsitirct.
2. Mr. Satish K., S/o. Sri Doddegowda, No. 9, E Block, CR Police Lane, Asugodi , Bangalore - 560 030.

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, KARNATAKA
4th Floor, BSNL Building, Telephone House ,Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001
O.A. No.724/2021

Between: State Bank of India ...Applicant
And
Mr. Neil K. Shetty & Another ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993, TO THE DEFENDANT

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,49,84,323 /-** (Rupees One Crore Forty Nine Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Three only) from the defendants with interest as on 19.11.2020 together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or **on 09.03.2026 at 10.30 a.m.**, in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **15.12.2025**

Sd/- Registrar (DRT II)
Authorised to Issue Summons

The Defendant/s
1. Mr. Neil K. Shetty, S/o. Mr. K. Keshav,
2. Mr. Mallika K., S/o. Mr. K. Keshav, No.54, Sri Sai Arcade, 2nd Floor, 3rd B Main, Byraveshwara Nagar, Nagara bhavi Main Road, Bangalore - 560 072.

IN THE COURT OF CCH 41 XL ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU
O.S. 4016/2025

BETWEEN : Smt. C. Lalitha, Aged about 74 years, daughter of Late P.S. Chandran, R/a No 6, 10th Cross, Jayamahal Extension, Bengaluru-560046....**Plaintiff**
AND : Sri. Ahmed Ali Baig And others ...Defendant No.1

Summons to Defendant No. 1 Under Order 5 rule 20 by way of Paper Publication

Sri. Ahmed Ali Baig Father's name not known, Aged about 40 years, Chief Executive Officer and founder No.485, S.N. Towers 2nd Floor, 6th Main Road, 3rd Block, H.B.R. Layout, Bengaluru-560043.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Summons under Order 5 Rule 20

WHEREAS, C. Lalitha daughter of Late P.S. Chandran, has instituted a suit against you for ejection, possession of the suit schedule premises as described below and means profit. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court **on 09/03/2026 at 11:00 AM,** or by a pleader duly instructed, and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit. The said summons has been returned with endorsement left address.

Take note that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULED PREMISES

Building comprising of Ground Floor portion (12.5 Sq.feet and First Floor portion 12.5 Sq.feet) of the Residential premises of the Owner C Lalitha D/o late P S Chandran located in (13, Gulamma Road old address and new No. 564, 3rd Cross, 3rd Main, Kacharkanahalli, Keshavanagar Post, Bangalore 560084 covered with Vitrified Tiled floor and red tiled portion which consists of 2 Bed rooms with 3 ward robes, an attached bath room with WC one wash basin with mirror a gazer in working condition is provided there in. Both the floors provided with additional common bath room. A modular Kitchen with shelves provided in 4 numbers ceiling fans in both the halls and bed rooms with proper switches/fans/electrical points / regulators / tube lights, bulbs - including portico is provided. In addition 3 electricity meters, Motors provided and attached with sump, automatic water controller with sensor to lift water from sump to overhead tank existing in good conditions.

Bounded on : North by : Private property, East by : Site No. 10 & 11, South by : Road, West by : Site No. 12.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 23rd day of January 2026.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Address of Advocate for plaintiff
Dr. S.B.N. PRAKASH, Advocate
No. 10, 9th Cross, 8th Main, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-560003.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT ANEKAL
O.S. No. 598/2020

Plaintiff : Mr. Sultan Khan
V/s
Defendant : S. Akash and another

BETWEEN : Mr. Sultan Khan S/o late Khalid Khan, Residing at No. 26/18, 5th Main, Bannarghatta Main Road, Bismillahnagar, Bangalore-560 029. ...Plaintiff
AND: S. Akash and another ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT NO. 2

To, Defendant No. 2: M/s Wipro Limited, Office at No. 438, Doddakonhalli, Sarjapura Main Road, Bangalore -560 035. Represented by its managing director.

Whereas the above-named Plaintiff instituted a suit against you in O.S. No. 598/2020 for the relief of cancellation of registered documents of sale as not binding on the plaintiff and to Declare that the sale deed dated 22-02-2005 as per registered Document No. ANK-1-25969-2004-05 stored in CD No. ANKD53, registered at the office of the sub-registrar Anekal, is null and void.

Also Declare that sale deed dated 08-08-2011 Registered as per Document No. SRJ-1-02211-2011-12 stored in CD No. SRJD76 registered at the office of the sub-registrar Sarjapura is null and void and for delivery of possession of the suit schedule property permanent injunction.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer **on this day of 18.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M** failing which the suit will be heard and determined as ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property Re-survey No. 78 present No. 27/1 and Survey No. 59, Survey No. 14 (65) are all situated at Chikkadevasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, measuring Two Acres and Twenty-eight Guntas of land and Bounded on:- **East by :** Road, **West by :** Narayanappa's land, **North by :** Gullappa land, **South by :** Munishamaiah land.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 12.01.2026.

By order of Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Senior Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Anekal.
Advocate for Plaintiff :
RIYAZ AHMED SHERIFF
T.C. SHIVA PRASAD, SYED SHAHQIL SHAD
Chamber No. 10/1, 1st Floor, Basappa Circle, Lalbagh Fort Road, Kalasipalya, Bangalore-560002. M : 9741409224 / 9901051305.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU
O.S. 6300/2023

Plaintiff:
Skillboxes (India) Private Limited
Having its office at No. 100 D Block, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, Koramangala 2nd Block, Bangalore – 560034. Represented by its Director, Mr. Anmol Kukreja.
- V/s -
Respondent :
Mr. Nitish Bharadwaj

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 R/W SECTION 151 OF THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE, 1908 THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

Respondent Address:
Mr. Nitish Bharadwaj,
Aged Major,
BC-55, West Shalimar Bagh,
New Dehli, India-110088

WHEREAS, the above Plaintiff has filed the instant suit seeking Permanent Injunction restraining the Defendant, his family members, agents, henchmen, assigns and/or representatives from making, writing, posting on social media platform, publishing and/or distributing or issuing any defamatory statements regarding the Plaintiffs to third parties including but not limited to its clients, investors, customers, employees (both past and current) and to grant any other appropriate reliefs.

You are hereby informed to appear before this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on the **16/02/2026 at 11.00 o'clock** in the forenoon to show cause against the plaint, failing which the matter will be heard and determined.

You are directed to produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defense.

Take notice that in default of your appearance, on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the sale of the Court, this day of 22nd January, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT,
Senior Shiresthedar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for the Plaintiff
Chintan Chinnappa
Spectrum Legal,
2nd Floor, Silver Rock,
12, Nandi Durga Road,
Jayamahal, Bengaluru 560006.
Email ID: chintan@spectrumlegal.in
Ph. No.: +91 9686455514

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai Egmore
Tender Notice No: -E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT12-2025-26 dated 22.01.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / Construction / Southern Railway / Egmore, Chennai 600008 invites E-Tender for the following Work.

Name of work: Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Construction, Chennai Egmore office Complex: Electrical arrangements for the proposed CAO/CN/MS chamber / Conference Hall, Chamber of Secretary to CAO/CN, CAO/RSP, CE/East at third floor and for residual civil modification works at Ground floor, First floor, Second floor and Sixth floor.

Tender Notice No. and Date		E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-12-2025-26 dt.22/01/2026
1.	Period of Completion	3 Months.
2.	Approximate Cost of Work	Rs.26,33,758/-
3.	Cost of Tender form	Nil
4.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.52,700/-
5.	Tender Closing Date & Time	16/02/2026 at 11.00AM.
6.	Tender Opening Date & Time	16/02/2026 at 11.30AM.

Complete details can be seen on **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Dy. Chief Elec Engineer/Gen/Cons/S. Rly, Egmore, Chennai-8.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD
Gurunanak Nagar Branch
Plot No.110, D.No.59A-8-15, 4th Lane, Teachers Colony, Patamata, Vijayawada

PUBLICATION DEMAND NOTICE

Notice Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

To, **Borrower: 1. Chidipudi Ravi Teja Reddy (Co-Borrower/Mortgager),** C/o S.N.Manjunath, No: 24/13, Shankarappa, L/o. Laljinagar, Bangalore-560030.

Sub: Your Home Loan Account (IBHL) - A/c No. 7399884063 with Indian Bank, Gurunanak Nagar Branch-Reg.

The outstanding dues payable by you as on **09.05.2025** amounts to **Rs. 17,01,549/-** (Rupees Seventeen Lakh One Thousand Five Hundred Forty Nine only) against loan and the said amount carries further interest at the agreed rate from **09.05.2025** - till date of repayment.

The Bank issued notice under the Act on **09.05.2025** of calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of **Rs. 17,01,549/-** (Rupees Seventeen Lakh One Thousand Five Hundred Forty Nine only) as on **09.05.2025.** The notice was sent to you by Regd.Post has been returned unserved.

You are called upon to pay **Rs. 17,01,549/-** (Rupees Seventeen Lakh One Thousand Five Hundred Forty Nine only) together with interest from **09-05-2025** till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder.

SCHEDULE

The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder:

Item-1: All that piece and parcel of undivided and unspecified site of 40 sq.yds in the total extent of 5178.8 sq.yds in RS No: 151/2, 8th ward of Gannavaram, Near Door No: 8-200 within the Jurisdiction of Sub-Registry of Gannavaram and District Registry of Gannavaram is bounded by: **East:** Land of Maddineni Venkaiah, **South:** Land of Dr Lanka Venkateswara Rao, **West:** Panchayat Road, **North:** Land of Maddineni Venkaiah. With these boundaries an extent of 40 sq.yds of Undivided and unspecified share of total extent of 5178.80 sq yds or 4329.99 sq mts of site with joint rights only.

Item-2: In the total site in item 1, building is being constructed or building was constructed under the name and style of "SRI RAAM GOLDEN NEST" in which a flat bearing no: SB-7 in 1st floor, Sravya Block with the following boundaries: **East:** Common Corridor, **South:** Open to Sky, **West:** Open to Sky, **North:** Open to sky.

Date: 09.05.2025
Place: Vijayawada

Authorized Officer
Indian Bank

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	31870430000014 31879410001360 & 31870510000865	1) Mrs. Kalamma, 2) Mrs. Swetha C V	18.10.2025 Rs.7,32,790.78 (Rupees Seven Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety and Seventy Eight Paisa Only) due as on 07-10-2025	Date: 23.01.2026 Time: 03:35 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential Property bearing Northern Portion of Eastern side site no.23, New Khatha No.608/23, Old No.14, Property No.16/1 situated at Gangodanahalli Village, Dasanpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk Presently comes under the limits of Gangodanahalli Village Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Remaining Site No.23, measuring 20*15 and Road, **North by:** 3 feet Passage and site No.22, **South by:** Southern Portion of Site No.23 belongs to Shanachari. Measuring: 20*15 feet			
2	34019420000251 & 34019430001014	1) Mr. Ramesha S, 2) Mr. Sampangi O	12.11.2025 Rs.40,43,527.78 (Rupees Forty Lakh Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Seven and Seventy Eight Paisa Only) due as on 29-10-2025	Date: 23.01.2026 Time: 05:50 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.52, Khatha No.94/94/52 measuring East to West 29.5 ft and North to South 39 ft totally measuring 1150 Sq.ft, situated at Tharahunase Village, Bettahalasuru Grama Panchayath, Jala Hobali, Bangalore North Taluk and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** Property belonging to Saraswathi, **North by:** Property belonging to Beedi Muniyappa, **South by:** Others Property.			
3	47050430000702	1) Mr. Bommaraju, 2) Mrs. Jayalakshmi	23-10-2025 Rs.3,39,285.14 (Rupees Three Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Five and Fourteen Paisa Only) due as on 18-10-2025	Date: 23-01-2026 Time: 05:10 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel for the property E-Khatha No.152900102301220087, Khaneshumari No.412/309/37/1, measuring East to West 13.4112 meters and North to South 5.7912 meters, situated at Moledoddi Village, Nilasandra Grama Panchayath, Kasaba Hobali, Channapattana Brock, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: On the East:** Government Road, **On the West:** Site belongs to Nilamma, **On the North:** House belongs to Lakshmamma @ Dyavasara, **On the South:** Site belongs to Siddaraju.			

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural
Date: 26.01.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

HDFC BANK
We understand your world

HDFC BANK LTD, Ground Floor,Rashtrothana Bhavan, Muncipal No3/1,Ward No 77, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore - 560001, Ph: 68906203/629

Demand Notice under Sub Section 2 of Section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 (hereinafter referred to as "The Act".)

We, HDFC BANK LTD hereinafter called as "Bank" do here by issue notice as under. Please take notice that you the following had availed a loan details of which have been mentioned hereunder. Towards the said loan you have created security interest in favour of the Bank on the property described hereunder by way of mortgage by depositing title deed. After availing the said loan, contrary to the contractual obligations you have defaulted repayment of the loan amount together with interest and other charges. Hence, your loan account has been categorized as Non Performing Asset.

Therefore, the Bank hereby recall the entire loan and call upon you to pay total amount outstanding in your loan account together with interest and all other charges thereon (details of which have been mentioned hereunder), within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of this Notice. Further, You are hereby put on notice that in terms of Sec.13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured asset detailed hereunder.

If you fail to repay the Bank the outstanding amount, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sec 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other or further legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any applicable provisions of law.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/ Co Borrowers	Description of property (Secured Assets)	A/c No & Amount	Date of NPA	Total Amount /Outstanding Amount
1	**1.Sri. Vasudev Fabrics,** Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Chetan Prakash R,3rd Floor, 14/7, 19th Cross, Devanga Hostel Road, SR Nagar, Bangalore – 560027 **2.Mr. Chetan Prakash R.,** Proprietor M/s. Sri. Vasudev Fabrics, 3rd Floor, 14/7, 19th Cross, Devanga Hostel Road, SR Nagar, Bangalore – 560027 **3.Chetan Prakash R.,** G01, Akira Apartment, Nanjundeshwara Enclave, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Near Bharath Petrol Bunk, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560091 **4.Soundarya G,** G01, Akira Apartment, Nanjundeshwara, Enclave, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Near Bharath Petrol Bunk, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560091	**SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY :'** All that piece and parcel of immovable property being converted (vide order no.: ALN (N)(Y) SR.38/2013-14, dated 15.02.2014)land bearing New Sy. No. 47/8 (old Sy. No. 47/1), measuring 8.12 Guntas of land(i.e., 8 3/4th Guntas), measuring 9528.75 in square feet, khata No.1046, situated at Gidadakonenahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, now comes under the limits of BBMP Ward No. 72 and bounded onthe :East by: Road, West by: Remaining portion Sy.No. 47/1, North by: Road, South by: Road **Schedule 'B' Property** (Description of undivided share agreed to be conveyed) Undivided proportionate share in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' property, which is equivalent to 352.0 Sq.Ft. **Schedule 'C' Property:** All that piece parcel of the Apartment bearing FlatNo. G-01) in Ground floor of "AKIRA APARTMENT" (Nanjundeshwara Enclave),together with RCC roofing, solid block walls, vitrified flooring, mainentrance frame and door teak wood, sal wood frames, aluminum windows,constructed on the Schedule 'A' property with super built up area of 1354 square feet, inclusive of 178 square feet of common area covered car parking No. G-01 space at stilt floor, in Schedule 'A' property of Gidadakonenahalli village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now comes under the limits of BBMP Ward No. 72, Bengaluru. East by: Flat No. G-04, West by: Remaining portion of survey No. 47/1 North by: Flat No. G-02, South by: Road.	**A/c No. 89323077** **Amount Rs. 80,00,000/-**	06.12.2025	**Rs.76,26,325/-** as on 29.12.2025
2	**1.Mr. Khader Shariff,** 342D, SFS 407, 3rd Main, 4th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Next to Bank of Maharashtra, Bangalore,Yelahanka, Bangalore – 560064 **2.Ms. Khalida Banu** 342D, SFS 407, 3rd Main, 4th Phase, Yelahanka New Town,Next to Bank of Maharashtra, Bangalore, Yelahanka, Bangalore – 560064.	All that piece and parcel of land and building situated at site bearing No. D1-342 formed by K.H.B, Bangalore in 407 SFS Scheme, Yelahanka IInd Phase New Town, Bangalore bounded on:- East by: Road; West by: Site No. 332; North by: Site No. 343;South by: Site No. 341;	**A/c No.** 87229676 **Amount Rs. 90,00,000/-**	05.10.2025	**Rs.81,70,734/-** as on 05.12.2025

Place : Bangalroe
Date : 19.01.2026

Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.

Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDFC BANK Ltd.,

1.1 MN bpd Russian crude oil India imported in the first three weeks of January, down from average 1.21 million barrels per day in the previous month, as per Kpler data

UPI app that helps track your spendings

Users can create family circle, add members and tag transactions like wedding spends or household purchases

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

WORRIED that you are spending too much unknowingly through UPI payments? BHIM App – a small player in the UPI payment app space, which is dominated by the likes of PhonePe, Google Pay and PayTm – has figured out ways to help you track spendings and put in self-imposed limits on your spendings.

Launched in 2016, BHIM was one of the earliest UPI apps but gradually faded from regular consumer use despite a large installed base. NPCI BHIM Services has rolled out a suite of new features under its revamped BHIM 3.0 app. We list a few of the features here.

Family mode

One of the most distinctive additions to BHIM 3.0 is family mode, which reflects how financial decisions are often taken collectively in Indian households. Users can create a family circle, add family members and tag transactions such as wedding expenses or household purchases as family expenses. The feature allows shared visibility of spending.

Family Mode enables delegation of payments, allowing one member to assign responsibilities such as bill payments to another, with automated reminders sent by the app.

Spend analytics

Responding to consumer concerns about losing track of spending due to ease of UPI payments, BHIM has introduced Spend Analytics, which categorises transactions and provides a snapshot of monthly expenses across groceries,

meals, travel and other categories. Users can set self-defined spending limits, with the app issuing alerts when spending approaches or exceeds those thresholds. While BHIM doesn't block transactions, the nudges are designed to promote financial awareness and discipline.

Splitting expenses

Targeting younger users and group spending habits, BHIM allows users to split expenses and request repayments directly within the app. One user can make a payment and send automated requests to others to settle their share. Unlike many apps that only enable bill splitting, BHIM allows recipients to pay back directly, simplifying group transactions such as dining, travel or parties.

UPI circle

Another major feature is UPI Circle, aimed at expanding UPI adoption among elderly users, dependents and first-time users who may be hesitant to link bank accounts.

It allows a user to delegate payment authority either fully or partially to trusted individuals. For example, elderly parents can make payments while the primary account holder bears the debit. Children or students can use UPI for small expenses without owning a full UPI-enabled account. Service providers like drivers can be given restricted, approval-based payment access.

The feature supports both full delegation (up to a capped limit) and partial delegation, where payments need real-time authorisation. UPI Circle is interoperable, meaning delegation can occur across different UPI apps. NPCI believes this feature could help onboard a major portion of the next wave of UPI users.

Biometric authentication

BHIM has also introduced biometric authentication, allowing users to approve transactions using fingerprint or face recognition instead of UPI PINs.

IN CONVERSATION

PATRIK ANTONI & BHAVANA JAISWAL
CEO (Left) and e-commerce head, IKEA India

'We want to grow our sales fourfold in India over next four years'

AS IKEA India expands its online delivery footprint to Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore and Salem last week, CEO **Patrik Antoni** and e-commerce head **Bhavana Jaiswal**, in an interaction with **Sanal Sudevan**, outline the Swedish furniture giant's aggressive growth plans in one of its most promising markets. **Edited Excerpts**:

What market share are you targeting in home furnishings segment in next 5 years, and what is your growth strategy?
Patrik Antoni: The home furnishings market in India is growing at about 8%. As a company, our ambition is to grow faster than the industry average. We plan to quadruple our sales from about €200 million (around ₹2,000 crore) in the next four years. To support this, we plan to open another 27 physical stores, taking the total to over 30 stores across India.

What is driving this aggressive expansion in India?
Patrik: There is a strong belief within IKEA that India is one of our most important future markets. This is driven by population size, favourable demographics, economic development, urban migration, and the sheer scale of unmet home furnishing needs.

How do you see e-commerce market for home furnishings evolving in India?
Bhavana Jaiswal: Online retail is currently dominated by electronics, fashion and beauty. Two years ago, furniture accounted for 7% of online sales. It is a fast-growing category, though perhaps not as rapid as groceries. In the coming years, share of furniture sold online will increase, and we will play a major role in that growth. As organised retail expands offline, online penetration will also rise.

There has been no major drop in exports from India. About 3% of India-sourced products go to the US. 30% of IKEA India's sales volume is sourced locally, while products worth €340 million are exported from India to other global markets

Are you planning partnerships with local furniture stores?
Patrik: Currently, our focus markets are Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad and Chennai. Most of our efforts are concentrated on these cities. We are expanding through an omnichannel model—large, medium and small-format stores, online platforms and mobile apps.

When are you opening stores in Gurgaon and Noida?
Patrik: Gurgaon may see a store in 2027 and Noida in 2028. Due to environmental regulations and pollution-related controls, it is difficult to predict timelines precisely.

What is the contribution of online sales to your revenue?
Bhavana: Last year, our revenue was ₹1,800 crore, and this year it is likely to be ₹2,000 crore. Nearly 30% of our sales come from online channels. Sales via website and app are almost evenly split. As we expand further, we expect the app to play a bigger role.

How much of IKEA's India business is circular or sustainable?
Patrik: In India, we operate Circular Hubs where products are returned under our 365-day return policy or due to damage. In some other markets, we have buy-back programmes, which we have not yet introduced in India. All our products are designed to be disassembled—recyclability begins at the design stage. Circularity is a core principle for IKEA globally.

Are you looking to expand further into office furnishings?
Patrik: We cater to offices, cafés and hotels, which require higher product quality. Accessories form a significant part of our offering. About 20% of our revenue comes from the B2B segment.

Any impact on IKEA's exports to the US from India?
Patrik: There has been no major drop in exports from India. About 3% of our India-sourced products go to the US. About 30% of IKEA India's sales volume is sourced locally, while products worth 340 million are exported from India to other global markets.

MONEY-WISE

APPROACH TO EQUITY INVESTING IN 2026

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at
ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

PICKING up the threads from last fortnight's column where I commenced a review of what I had forecasted via the medium of this column in 2025 with what happened in Reality (highlighted in Italics), let us continue the exercise ...

Though non-traditional, an emerging asset class that many young people are gravitating towards is Cryptocurrencies. While I don't claim expertise in cryptocurrencies, its acceptance as legal tender in some parts of the world suggests that the concept could grow, subject to regulatory approval. Given its extreme volatility though, tread carefully till then. (While I cannot honestly admit to investing in or even following this segment, from what I have read, it was even more volatile than ever during the year gone by).

The highest profile, even if somewhat minimally invested, traditional asset class in India remains Equity. The general consensus or shall we say apprehension is that a correction is round the corner. It may be so and those who believe it would do well to seek a switch to either safer debt instruments or equity offerings carrying lower risk by employing an in-built hedge mechanism. (This played out too with the mid-cap and small-cap equity segments ceding quite a bit of the gains of the earlier years).

One can of course, also always take the view that historically most corrections have almost inevitably been followed by a rebound and hence, if one has no pressing near term need for the invested funds, stay invested. (I have largely done this through the three and a half decades that I have invested and been none the worse for it. In my opinion, it is a no-brainer actually and I believe that corrections are great accumulation and top-up opportunities.)

With Indian equities ranking among the worst performing across global markets in 2025, there is a sense of gloom and doom projected by several 'talking heads' but it does not shake my time-tested belief that every year is a good year for equities. Some, like 2025 for accumulation and topping up one's mutual fund portfolio to maintain and boost the compounding effect and some, like the prior four years for good returns where Indian equities ruled the roost.

I for one, am not a believer in 'Sell dear and Buy cheap' as time and experience over three and a half decades in the market have taught me that it is only a mythical investor that manages to do so regularly. A lucky one off, maybe, but to do it consistently is well nigh impossible. What actually happens in most such cases is that the one who sells either finds the markets continuing to soar or if it corrects, keeps waiting for that most opportune moment to buy again, which never happens. Hence, I prefer to stick to the approach that has served me well over the years and am not in any hurry to revise it.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY INDIA FACES INVESTMENT CHALLENGES

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE Securities and Exchange Board of India published one of the most comprehensive investor surveys last week. They interviewed 90,000 households across India. That is a significant number of people, assuming at least 3-4 people per household. The idea of the survey was to demonstrate that India is moving from a nation of savers to one of investors. About 63% households are aware of at least one securities market product, but only 9.5% participate. That means awareness is no longer an issue. It is the ability to have that confidence in securities investing. People are in a learning stage and need to build that confidence.

The lack of confidence stems from the predominant risk aversion among Indian savers. In the survey, most people described themselves as that. A primary reason is the perception that securities market products are complex. Most respondents have serious concerns about risk and return, and over half have trust and transparency issues.

The beeline people make for housing projects in key urban areas shows that real estate remains an ultimate goal of savings and investments. The appetite for gold in Indian households remains relentless. Morgan Stanley, a global bank, estimated that Indians hold over 34,000 tons of gold. At current prices, it is worth more than the country's GDP.

The surge in gold prices roughly matches the Sensex's returns over the past 20 years. The base return is the one guaranteed by the public provident fund, and the highest return on the household wealth is the return on gold. The comparison between Sensex and gold returns is unfair. Securities, such as equity shares and bonds, are issued for trading at regular intervals. Gold is bought for religious reasons, and most of it is held in the form of jewellery. Unless you are pushed against the wall, you do not sell gold like a paper-based security. There is an increase in the amount of money flowing into gold exchange-traded funds. That appreciation for tradeable gold was only after gold prices were already high and rising.

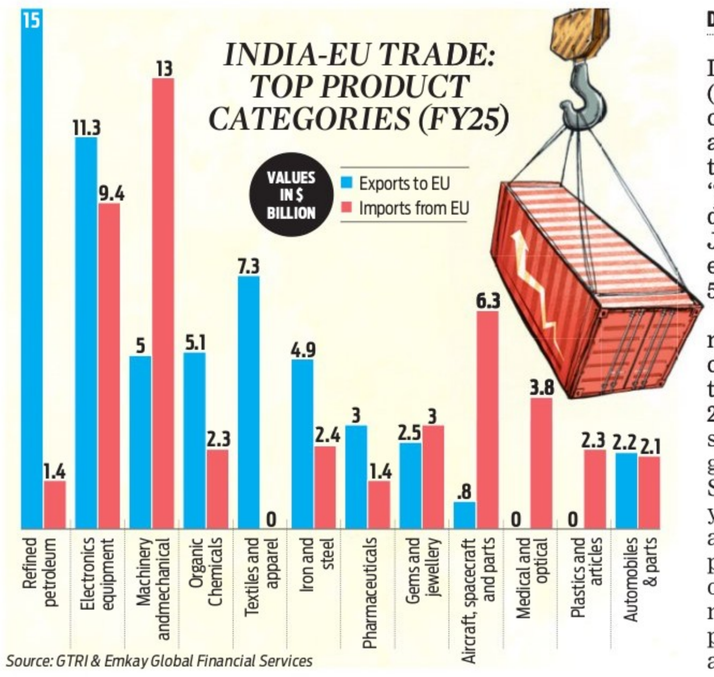
Gold is not as liquid an investment as shares or mutual funds. Empirical records show that equity returns benefit from the power of compounding. Businesses continue to create profits by selling goods and services to an ever-growing, high-consuming population in rural and urban India. Some businesses feed into the global demand and focus on exports. Businesses can innovate, focus on improving efficiency, and expand profits regularly. Stock market prices are linked to businesses' profit growth.

The investment survey indicates that a significant number of people intend to enter the capital market in the next 12 months. Half of that cohort is in rural India, the Sebi survey finds. Gen Z and Millennials dominate the intender base, and the new wave of potential investors is digitally savvy and aspirational. access. They rely on social media financial influencers.

The survey warns everyone that it's a double-edged sword. "While digital platforms have democratized access to financial concepts, they also increase the need for digital literacy and vigilance against misinformation," the survey said. SEBI's own Investor Education Programs (IEPs) have a high satisfaction rate (91%), but their reach is currently under 1% nationally, suggesting a need to meet investors where they already are: on YouTube and Instagram.

Your lack of confidence in securities markets can be tackled only with knowledge. This column has consistently highlighted the importance of regularly learning about financial concepts. It does not have to be reading up only. You may want to listen to a podcast, watch videos or Instagram reels. The only thing that matters is that you are consuming the right information from a credible source. Even better is to engage with a professional financial advisor who can help you make an appropriate asset allocation based on your financial goals and income.

EU FTA may boost Indian exports by $50 bn in 5 yrs



Source: GTRI & Emkay Global Financial Services

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

INDIA and the European Union (EU) are on the cusp of concluding a landmark free trade agreement (FTA), which both the countries have termed as "mother of all trade deals". The deal, likely to be concluded on January 27, may boost India's exports to the region by over 50% in next five years.

As per an Emkay Global Financial Services report, the deal could increase India's exports to the bloc by up to $50 billion by 2031. The deal is seen as a key strategic buffer against rising global trade protectionism. On Sunday, commerce minister Piyush Goyal said the EU remains a vital economic & strategic partner for India, and "we value our shared commitment to a mutually beneficial FTA for the prosperity of our businesses and people" as he welcomed Maroš Šefcovic, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, in India.

A report by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) notes India-EU goods trade crossed $136 billion in FY25.

"India exports labour-intensive, downstream products, while the EU supplies capital goods, technology and industrial inputs—making tariff cuts mutually beneficial," the GTRI stated. Tariff elimination under an FTA would "lower input costs, deepen value chains and expand trade — classic FTA economics that supports industry on both sides."

Current trade landscape

India has trade surplus of $15 billion with the EU in FY25, with exports of $75.9 billion against imports of $60.7 billion. The EU accounts for 17% of India's goods exports and one-third of its IT services exports.

As per Emkay, India's export basket to the EU has evolved from traditional goods like textiles and gems to medium-tech products. "India's export basket with the EU has moved up the value chain with time, with high-value exports (electronics, machinery, chemicals)."

Sectoral winners

Key Indian sectors poised to benefit include textiles, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals. The EU is a top destination for Indian textiles, absorbing 35-38% of exports. However, India faces tariffs of 10-12%, while competitors like Bangladesh and Vietnam enjoy duty-free access via their own FTAs. "If tariff drops from 10–12% to 0%, then India will have a boost in price competitiveness," the Emkay report noted.

EVs may be excluded

The report said electric vehicles will be excluded from import duty cuts for the first five years to protect investments by domestic players like Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors in the nascent sector. After 5 years EVs will follow similar duty cuts.

India may cut tariffs on vehicles imported from EU to 40%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA reportedly plans to slash tariffs on cars imported from the European Union to 40% from as high as 110% as the two sides close in on a free trade pact.

As per a Reuters report citing sources, Indian side has agreed to immediately reduce tax on a limited number of cars from the 27-nation bloc with an import price of more than 15,000 euros ($17,739). This will likely be further lowered to 10% over time, easing access to the Indian market for European automakers such as Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz and BMW. However, there is no official comment from commerce ministry and the European Commission yet. India currently levies tariffs of 70% and 110% on imported cars. New Delhi has reportedly proposed slashing import duties to 40% for 200,000 combustion-engine cars a year, its most aggressive move yet to open up the sector. This quota could be subject to last-minute changes, the report stated.

Jaiswal 'not considered' for Mumbai selection

Yashasvi Jaiswal was not considered for selection for Mumbai's last Ranji Trophy league match against Delhi because the Indian opener has been "picking and choosing" the games that he wanted to play and often remained "non-responsive" ahead of selection meetings, a MCA official informed *PTI*.

India send warning shots to rivals ahead of T20 WC

Returning Bumrah picks three before Sharma, SKY guide team home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Jasprit Bumrah (2nd from left) celebrates a wicket with his teammates | PTI

INDIA'S kamikaze approach at the top shows no signs of stopping. If anything, they will likely double down like they did on Sunday. Chasing a modest 153, they lost Sanju Samson (more on him later) off the first ball to Matt Henry. But the Men In Blue, turbo-charged by Abhishek Sharma's whirlwind unbeaten 20-ball 68 (seven fours, five sixes), put the pedal to the metal from the next ball.

The only time they eased up was when the end credits rolled post Suryakumar Yadav hitting the winning runs to rubber-stamp a dominant display. A win by eight wickets and 60 balls isn't just the story of the match but the story of a one-sided series win with two matches still remaining. On this form in their own backyard, the holders are now favourites to become the first men's team to retain the World Cup in this format in 40 days' time. Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Yadav (the trio split 124 runs in boundaries in just 10 overs) made all the difference up top but the win itself was set up by the returning Jasprit Bumrah on a beauty of a surface. Bumrah has not been himself in the last few outings relative to his own extremely high standards. He has, of course, been preserved by the team management because of the looming event but that fizz was missing, that noticeable snap of the wrists absent.

Not on Sunday. He was majestic from start to finish as he picked up 3/17 in his four overs across different phases of the game (11 dots and giving away just one boundary). India have preferred to give him only one over in the powerplay because his variety at the end overs but it's important they time that one correctly.

The last over of the field restrictions seems to be an appropriate time to introduce him as it's one of the hardest overs to bowl in this format. Off his very first ball, he breached through Tim Seifert's defences, a fairly straight ball hurrying the batter before disturbing the stumps. He may not be express but because of his in-built advantage thanks to the late release, he hurries up the batters. And at 138-140ks, it's all he needs. He also possesses the ability to move it both ways and it can leave the batters guessing till the last minute. He's also very accurate and keeps the stumps in play.

In his last spell, his brand of yorkers, shin length full-tosses and other variations meant the visitors could never take him down. In fact, if anything, he dragged the scoring back by picking up two more wickets with his trusted modus operandi of keeping the stumps in play.

They will likely wrap him up in cotton wool for the next two games. But there will be some internal questions over Samson's worrying returns. Irrespective of what happens with respect to Tilak Verma, they may decide to opt for Kishan's belligerence right now. Kishan started off his innings with two monster sixes off his first three balls, something the team management wants from their players at the top of the order. Samson is capable of that but over the last few games, he's just struggling for some rhythm.

The final word of the match, though, was reserved for Abhishek who looks primed to shine in his first ever ICC event. His role clarity, the idea of where his strengths and, more importantly, what areas of the ground he avoids accessing, is what makes him a deadly operator. During the course of his knock, he also brought up his 50 off just 14 deliveries, the second fastest by an Indian.

Brief scores: New Zealand 153/9 in 20 ovs (Phillips 48, Chapman 32, Santner 27; Bishnoi 2/18, Bumrah 3/17) **lost to** India 155/2 in 10 ovs (Abhishek 68 n.o, Kishan 28, Suryakumar 57 n.o).

Pak name squad but reiterate threat

ENS/AGENCIES @ Chennai

AFTER a drama-filled Saturday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced their 15-man squad for the T20 World Cup on Sunday. But the squad announcement came with the caveat that they were still not sure of taking part in the tournament.

"We are selectors, and our job is to pick the team," former pacer Aaqib Javed, now a member of the selection committee, told reporters. "We've announced the team very close to the (ICC) deadline. The government will decide on our participation. So, I can say nothing on that front. That's what the chairman (Naqvi) had said, too, so we'll wait for their decision," he added. It's to be noted that they were always going to make the announcement on Sunday.

The ICC has set January 30 as the deadline for all 20 participating nations to submit their final squads. Salman Ali Agha will lead the Pakistan team in the tournament, scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8.

Mohsin Naqvi

Following Bangladesh's removal, Naqvi had said that the Pakistan government would take the final decision on whether its national team would participate in the T20 World Cup. Naqvi also expressed his displeasure at the ICC's 'doubles standards' on Saturday.

With respect to the squad itself, they have picked a few promising names but their Achilles Heel remains their batting as they don't have the hitting power of some of the other teams. There are also question marks regarding the form of Babar Azam. It's something coach Mike Hesson addressed. "He (Babar) certainly has the skill to control the middle overs, if required, and then to feed the strike to certain players," Hesson said. "If we're chasing a lower score, he certainly has that ability to control a chase . the conditions in Australia are significantly different than what we're going to face in Sri Lanka, so we factored all those things in," he added. However, Naqvi insisted that naming the squad isn't akin to travelling to Sri Lanka for the tournament. 'We are waiting for the government's advice and whatever the government tells us to do we will do it. If they don't want us to go for the World Cup," he's believed to have told the players and the support staff.

Squad: Salman Agha (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Khawaja Mohammad Nafay (wk), Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Salman Mirza, Naseem Shah, Sahibzada Farhan (wk), Saim Ayub, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shadab Khan, Usman Khan (wk) and Usman Tariq.

WORLD CUP-WINNING CAPTAINS WIN PADMA SHRI

Rohit Sharma and Harmanpreet Kaur, two of India's ICC World Cup-winning captains over the last 18 months, were honoured with big awards on Sunday. Tennis legend, Vijay Amritraj, won the Padma Bhushan. A look at the award winners...

PADMA BHUSHAN

VIJAY AMRITRAJ

Amritraj was the only sportsperson to receive the Padma Bhushan this year. The award recognises his pioneering role in putting Indian tennis on the global map during the amateur and early Open Era. A Davis Cup stalwart during his playing days, Amritraj had earlier received the Padma Shri in 1983 and the Arjuna Award in 1974. Is the chief of the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association these days.

PADMA SHRI

ROHIT SHARMA

Rohit's recognition follows a defining leadership phase in Indian men's cricket. As captain, he guided India to two ICC titles, lifting the T20 World Cup in 2024 and the Champions Trophy in 2025.

HARMANPREET KAUR BHULLAR

She led India to their maiden ICC Women's World Cup title on home soil, defeating South Africa in the final at Navi Mumbai a few months ago. She became only the second Indian skipper overall to win a World Cup at home, after MS Dhoni. Her lasting legacy will be in showing the way for the next generation.

VLADIMIR MESTVIRISHVILI (POSTHUMOUS)

Legendary freestyle wrestling coach from Georgia, who mentored and helped shape India into a global wrestling powerhouse. He famous wards include Olympic medallists Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt and Bajrang Punia.

K PAJANIVEL

Renowned Silambam coach, who revived the ancient martial art form. Founded Mamallan Martial Art and Folk-Art Development Club.

SAVITA PUNIA

First Indian woman to win the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year thrice in a row. She was conferred with the Arjuna Award in 2018. She played a major role in India's Tokyo Olympics 2020 campaign as vice-captain where she helped her team in achieving a record-breaking fourth-place finish. Is one of the most recognisable hockey players in the country.

PRAVEEN KUMAR

Praveen won the high jump gold with an Asian record at the 2024 Paris Paralympics. He had won the silver medal at the Tokyo Paralympics in 2021. The medal in Paris made him the youngest winner of consecutive Paralympic medals at just 21.

BALDEV SINGH

Veteran hockey coach who revolutionised Indian women's hockey, mentored over 50 international players and established Shahbad Markanda women's hockey nursery in Kurukshetra, Haryana.

BHAGWANDAS RAIKWAR

Bundeli war art trainer with a six-decade career. Preserved & promoted Bundelkhand martial folk traditions. Mentor to over 1000 disciples.

Asian Winter Games moved

AGENCIES @ Dubai

SAUDI Arabia's Olympic Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia have agreed to indefinitely postpone the 2029 Asian Winter Games, which were to have been held in a mountain resort in Saudi's futuristic city project NEOM.

In a statement released Saturday, the Olympic Council of Asia said the two bodies had agreed "to an updated framework for future hosting" of the games, which will be postponed "to a later date to be announced in due course." It did not provide a reason.

Instead, Saudi will host a series of standalone winter sports events in coming years, the statement said. It added that the decision came after "extensive consultations between the two organizations and reflects a shared strategic commitment to the long-term and sustainable development of winter sports in Saudi Arabia and across the West Asia region."

EXPRESS READ

Unwell Randhir's tenure as OCA chief ends

NEW DELHI: Veteran Indian sports administrator Randhir Singh's tenure as Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) president will come to a premature end as his ill-health necessitated the election of a new head of the continental body during its General Assembly in Tashkent on Monday.

Owen re-appointed as Jamshedpur FC coach

JAMSHEDPUR: Indian Super League club Jamshedpur FC have re-appointed England's Owen Coyle as head coach on a two-season contract. The appointment of Coyle, who guided the Men of Steel to their historic ISL League Winners' Shield in the 2021-22 season, marked his return to JFC.

HIL: Ranchi edge out Hyderabad to enter final

BHUBANESWAR: Ranchi Royals registered a sensational 3-2 win over Hyderabad Toofans in Qualifier 2 to enter the men's Hockey India League final here on Sunday. Tom Boon's scored a hat-trick for the winners. Royals will face Vedanta Kalinga Lancers in the summit clash on Monday.

Man Utd dent Arsenal title bid with huge win

AGENCIES @ London

Manchester United players celebrate a goal against Arsenal on Sunday | AFP

MANCHESTER United dealt a blow to Arsenal's Premier League title charge as Matheus Cunha's superb strike clinched a thrilling 3-2 win over the leaders on Sunday. Lisandro Martinez's own goal put Arsenal ahead at the Emirates Stadium, but Bryan Mbeumo equalised before half-time. Patrick Dorgu's brilliant blast gave United the lead after the interval, but Mikel Merino's late leveller looked to have rescued a point for Arsenal until Cunha's sublime effort three minutes from full-time. Meanwhile, Chelsea piled more pain on Crystal Palace with a 3-1 win at Selhurst Park. Oliver Glasner promised to do his best to turn around a miserable run for the Eagles despite announcing he will leave the club when his contract expires at the end of the season.

Jean-Philippe Mateta wasted Palace's best chance of a bright opening when he fired straight at Robert Sanchez. But the home side never recovered after a wayward backpass from Jaydee Canvot freed Estevao to sprint clear and fire in Chelsea's opener on 34 minutes.

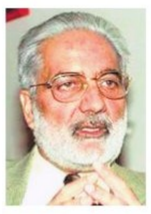
The Brazilian then set up compatriot Joao Pedro to double the Blues' advantage just after half-time. Enzo Fernandez's penalty rounded off a fourth win in five games for Liam Rosenior since he took charge at Stamford Bridge.

Aston Villa closed to within four points of the Premier League summit with an impressive 2-0 win at Newcastle, Villa bounced back from a shock 1-0 defeat at home to Everton last weekend to remain on the fringes of the title race.

Former BCCI prez Bindra passes away

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

FORMER BCCI president Inderjit Singh Bindra, who played a major role in ushering in a new era of cricket marketing, passed away here on Sunday. He was 84. He is survived by a son and daughter. Bindra served as the board president from 1993 to 1996.



In 2015, the PCA stadium was renamed as IS Bindra Stadium as a tribute to his inspiring work as an administrator. Bindra started his association with the game as an official in 1975. He was best remembered for his role in organising the 1987 World Cup in India and it was the first time the global event was moved out of England after the 1975, 1979 and 1983 editions.

He managed the coup in the company of his close friend late Jagmohan Dalmiya and then BCCI chief NKP Salve, and it opened the Indian television market to the new possibilities of cricket marketing.

Ranji Trophy: Madhya Pradesh hand Karnataka a big loss

ENS/AGENCIES @ Alur

SPINNERS Saransh Jain (3/37) and Sagar Solanki (3/20) shared six wickets between them as Madhya Pradesh handed Karnataka a heavy 217-run defeat on Day 4 of the Ranji Trophy on Sunday. Resuming from overnight 204 for six, MP declared their second innings at 229 for eight, setting the hosts a target of 362 runs. But both spinners ran through the Karnataka batting line-up to fold them for 144 in their second innings. This leaves Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra and Saurashtra in a four-way battle for the qualification spots in Group B.

Mumbai enter knockouts

HYDERABAD: Despite Hyderabad's improved performance after being told to follow-on, Mumbai's dominance ensured them a big nine-wicket victory on Sunday and a spot in the quarterfinals of the Ranji Trophy. Mumbai were given a target of 10 runs, which was chased in three overs. Earlier, Chama Milind (85) was the only silver lining for the hosts. Mumbai's Musheer Khan returned with a five-wicket haul.

SELECT SCORES

Group A: At Bhubaneswar: TN 286 and 316 bt Odisha 148 and 247 in 83.5 ovs (Anil Parida 98 Subhranshu Senapati 55; Sonu Yadav 2/39); At Anantapur: Vidarbha 295 and 191 lost to Andhra 228 and 259/2 in 56.1 ovs (Shaikh Rasheed 132 n.o, Ricky Bhui 64 n.o); **Group B:** At Alur: Madhya Pradesh: 323 and 229/8 decl in 75.1 ovs ovs (Himanshu Mantri 96; Vidhyadhar Patil 4/54) bt Karnataka 191 and 144 in 67.5 ovs (KV Aneesh 57; Sagar Solanki 3/20, Saransh Jain 3/37); **Group D**: At Hyderabad: Mumbai 560 and 12/1 in 3.2 ovs bt Hyderabad 267 & (F/O) 302 in 69.5 ovs (Chama Milind 85; Musheer Khan 5/79); At Bengaluru: Delhi 216 & 422 in 102.3 ovs (Ayush Doseja 129, Priyansh Arya 82; Ayush Pandey 2/32) drew to Chhattisgarh 505 and 57/3 in 8 ovs (Money Grewal 3/27).

Andhra humble Vidarbha

ANANTAPUR: Andhra surged to the top of Group A points table with an eight-wicket win over defending champions Vidarbha on Day 4. Set a target of 259, Andhra, who resumed their second innings at overnight 93 for one, completed the task in 56.1 overs, with Shaik Rasheed remaining unbeaten on a magnificent century. Nachiket Bhute (2/83) was the only bowler from Vidarbha to get wickets in Andhra's second innings.

TN grab first win

BHUBANESWAR: After being handed tough results, Tamil Nadu won their first Ranji Trophy match against Odisha on Day 4. After setting a big target of 455, Tamil Nadu bowlers P Vidyuth, Sai Kishore, Sonu Yadav and Nidhish Rajagopal scalped two wickets each to bowl out hosts to 247. Anil Parida missed out on a ton.

Ayush's ton helps Delhi draw

BENGALURU: Ayush Doseja struck a fine 129 as Delhi showed resilience to salvage a hard-fought draw against Chhattisgarh.

Trailing by 131 runs, Doseja anchored the second-innings recovery with a composed knock. He found able support from skipper Ayush Badoni, who scored 68 runs.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Alcaraz, Sabalenka power through to last eight

AFP @ Melbourne

CARLOS Alcaraz powered into the Australian Open quarterfinals on Sunday and Novak Djokovic joined him without hitting a ball, as the next generation roared. Aryna Sabalenka surged through but Coco Gauff was forced to fight at Melbourne Park, where temperatures eased to 22C after the brutal heat of a day earlier.

Top seed Alcaraz was in ominous touch at Rod Laver Arena, dismissing the American Tommy Paul 7-6 (6), 6-4, 7-5 in a masterclass. The 22-year-old plays home hope and sixth seed Alex de Minaur, who defeated 10th seed Alexander Bublik in straight sets.

Djokovic, chasing a record 25th Grand Slam crown, was scheduled to face Jakub Mensik in the last 16 on Monday but the Czech player pulled out injured. Djokovic will face American ninth seed Taylor Fritz or fifth seed Lorenzo Musetti of Italy for a place in the semifinals. Alcaraz, who like Djokovic is yet to drop a set at this year's tournament, has never gone beyond the quarterfinals in Melbourne.

If he can finally break his Australian duck he will become the youngest man in history to win a career Grand Slam of all four majors. The Spaniard has in the past struggled with precision and a lack of consistency in his serving technique.

USA's Learner Tien hits a return to Russia's Daniil Medvedev | AFP

He is now sporting a new-look serve that has become a handy weapon — and been compared to Djokovic's serve.

"I had a Djokovic message saying, 'you have to pay me'," he said in his on-court interview after making light work of 19th seed Paul, to laughter from an adoring crowd.

Alexander Zverev, well beaten by Jannik Sinner in last year's final, plays Learner Tien of the United States next.

Germany's third seed demolished Argentina's 18th seed Francisco Cerundolo in straight sets. The 25th seed Tien ran out a surprisingly easy three-set winner over three-time finalist Daniil Medvedev.

Tien, 20, eased into his first Grand Slam quarter-final despite a nosebleed in the first set that required lengthy treatment. He later said his nose was just dry.

"Every year since I've been coming here, the crowd support has been amazing," said Tien, the youngest men's quarterfinalist at Melbourne Park since Nick Kyrgios in 2015. "A crowd like this with this much energy and support, it means the world to me to do it here."

Sabalenka, World No. 1. will face 18-year-old American Iva Jovic in the last-eight contest.

Results (select; 4th Rd) Men: Carlos Alcaraz bt Tommy Paul 7-6 (6), 6-4, 7-5, Learner Tien bt Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-0, 6-3. Women: Aryna Sabalenka bt Victoria Mboko 6-1, 7-6 (1), Coco Gauff bt Karolina Muchova 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Brevis century in vain as Sunrisers win SA20 title

ENS @ Chennai

Sunrisers Eastern Cape players celebrate a wicket on Sunday | SA20

SA20'S MOST expensive buy Dewald Brevis's 56-ball century (101) went in vain as Matthew Breetzke (68 n.o) and skipper Tristan Stubbs (63 n.o) guided Sunrisers Eastern Cape to their third SA20 title in Cape Town on Sunday. The chase of 159 was dramatically complete in the final over. Bryce Parsons saw two sixes fly off Stubbs, which proved to be the winning runs.

Earlier, Brevis, along with Parsons (30), calmed the storm, stringing a 97-run partnership for the third wicket. Brevis played a major role in propelling the team to a respectable total considering the poor start. Sunrisers' pacer Marco Jansen scalped three wickets. **Brief scores:** Pretoria Capitals 158/7 in 20 ovs (D Brevis 101; M Jansen 3/10) **lost to** Sunrisers Eastern Cape 162/4 in 19.2 ovs (M Breetzke 68 n.o, T Stubbs 63 n.o; L Ngidi 1/12).

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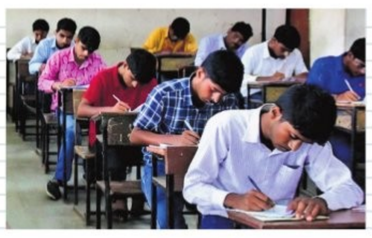
UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS



BPSC DSO/AC	JEE MAIN SESSION 1	CBSE GROUP A, B, C
Date: Jan 29-30	Date: Jan 28-29	Date: Jan 31

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LIFE AFTER CAT

THE CAT SCORE MARKS A TRANSITION, NOT A FINISH LINE. WHAT FOLLOWS IS A SERIES OF EVALUATIONS, CHOICES, AND ENVIRONMENTS THAT ULTIMATELY DETERMINE WHAT CARRIES FORWARD INTO REAL OUTCOMES

Where candidates lose ground in WAT/PI

WAT and PI are designed to test judgement in real time. At this stage, performance depends less on knowledge and more on steadiness. Certain patterns stand out instantly to interviewers and often determine who moves forward.

Unstable reasoning
When a claim shifts under a simple follow-up or the logic snaps mid-answer, panels read it as weak judgement under pressure structure and uncertain thinking

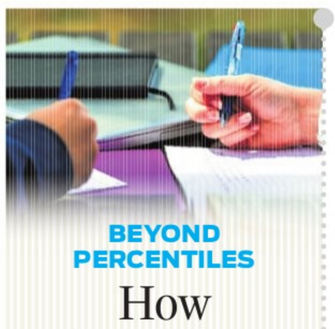
Excessive length
When responses keep running without a clear spine or prioritised points, panels take it as low

Weak examples
When examples stay generic, borrowed, or detached from lived work, panels see ideas that may not translate into action later

Defensive reactions
When probing triggers excuses, pushback, or irritation, panels infer low coachability and higher friction in collaborative settings

Unclear goals
When goals and past choices fail to line up across answers, panels doubt fit and sustained intent through the programme

Defensive reactions
When a candidate misses the question, interrupts, or answers a different prompt, panels read it as low composure and weak real-time judgement



BEYOND PERCENTILES

How shortlisting really works

While many candidates see the CAT score as a final judgement, institutes view it only as a starting point. Once the shortlisting process begins, candidates are interpreted across several signals that go well beyond the number on their scorecards.

CAT score
Used as a threshold to enter the pool, not as a verdict on potential. Percentiles open doors, they do not explain people.

Academic pattern
Panels look for consistency and trajectory across school and college, not isolated peaks. A clean academic story travels better than a spiky one.

Work experience signal
Roles, responsibility, and learning matter more than brand names. Clarity about what the candidate actually did carries weight.

Profile context
Gaps, switches, and non-linear paths are read for explanation and intent. What matters is whether the story holds together.

Interview readiness
This is where conversion happens. Panels respond to coherence, structure, and steadiness under questioning, not volume or fluency.

Success after CAT hinges on everyday decisions, not marks alone; once the result arrives, a different test begins, as Nikhil Abhishek learns from FoodKing Sarathbabu Elumalai's story

FROM CAT TO CASHFLOW: THINKING WINS

FOR most CAT aspirants, the exam feels like the peak of a long and arduous journey. Months of preparation collapse into a single score, and it is tempting to treat that number as a final verdict. Yet the real pressure often begins afterwards, when institutes stop asking how fast you solved questions and start watching how you think under constraint, how you choose, and what you are willing to cut or protect when every option has a cost.

That is why "what an IIM gives you" is a better question than "what an IIM gets you". The salary narratives are flashy and loud but they rarely, if ever, capture the point. What survives and sustains year after year is the right mental model: seeing constraints early, reading situations without panic, and making decisions that protect the system rather than the ego. When those habits exist, even a bad month becomes a problem to solve. When they do not, even a good opportunity can become a slow leak.

Sarathbabu Elumalai, founder of FoodKing and an IIM Ahmedabad alumnus, frames this advantage as structured judgement across stakeholders, the ability to weigh every decision across all the people it affects. He traces it back to a moment when structure mattered more than optimism. Within months of starting out, he says he had expanded into multiple food outlets that were "making money" but not enough profit to cover overheads, until the arithmetic caught up with him.

"I was totally broke at the end of eight months, with just 200 left in my pocket," he recalls, describing a night he slept on a railway platform after missing a train and running out of options.

The recovery, he explains, began with decisions that felt unglamorous in the moment. He shut down his central kitchen and office, then reduced the number of outlets until the economics could breathe. The lesson he learned was as painful as it was simple: your idea cannot outrun your overheads for long. "Cut fixed costs first, then rebuild," he advises, describing it as the first move when a business is bleeding cash.

hard facts

For him, his years at IIM Ahmedabad were crucial in forming a way of thinking that refuses to isolate one variable from the rest. Case studies, he notes, trained him to check the same situation from the customer's side, the business side, the operations side, the finance side, and the market side, instead of leaning on a single lens. Over time, that approach became a reflex, and it now shapes how he diagnoses businesses, including those he mentors.

He points to a recent mentoring call with a home-cooked food platform that had scale on paper, with thousands of home cooks, yet daily orders that stayed thin. The problem, he felt, was trust. The supply was wide, but quality was uneven, which made customers hesitant to repeat. His suggestion was to narrow supply to consistently strong cooks, focus on the PIN codes already showing demand, and raise prices only after quality became predictable. "People will pay more when they trust what arrives," he says, arguing that growth follows when trust is built into the system, not when sign-ups are.

A similar realisation arrived early in his own work. He recalls how he once took on well-known corporate clients with low headcounts, assuming the association would translate into stability. It did not. "Volume, volume," he emphasises, returning to the constraint that decides most food businesses. Reputation and recognition, he argues, do not replace a base that pays for people, operations, and cash flow.

"Failure can sit in the business model or in how it's being run. The job is to identify where it lies before deciding what to change."
Sarathbabu Elumalai, founder, FoodKing

That discipline of accepting constraints, he adds, was also what separated his fourth CAT attempt from the first three. Elumalai wrote CAT four times and cleared it only on the fourth. The shift, he suggests, came down to full commitment. "If you're not 100% committed, don't even open the book," he chuckles. He remembers writing that retest while down with viral fever, treating illness as background noise rather than a reason to stop.

In business, pressure is less episodic and more relentless. Cash flow and payroll leave little room for fantasy, and stability cannot be postponed. He draws a hard line on responsibility, especially for young professionals caught in the clash between ambition and everyday obligations. "When people depend on you, that is the priority. When your child is hungry, that is your purpose. You cannot speak about higher goals if basic needs are not secure. Stability comes first. Purpose follows."

What follows the test is less predictable than the routines that are built before it. The numbers lose their power surprisingly quickly, replaced by conversations, impressions, and the patterns others notice in you. Whether you are anticipating your attempt or looking back at your score, the path you have chosen asks for a different presence of mind, one that cannot be faked or borrowed. What matters now is not only what you know, but how you navigate what comes next, even when the course is uncertain.

Same Score, Different Story

A percentile can place candidates in the same bracket, but it rarely makes them indistinguishable. Shortlist outcomes often reflect the strength of a candidate's story, not the symmetry of their scores.

Candidate A (APPROVED)	Candidate B (REJECTED)
Academic record shows a steady upward trajectory	Marks fluctuate without a clear pattern
Work experience described with role clarity and specific responsibilities	Work experience listed, but actual responsibilities remain vague
Gaps or switches explained with a coherent story	Gaps left unaddressed or explained inconsistently
Goals aligned with past choices and academic direction	Goals disconnected from previous decisions
Interview responses structured, paced, and grounded in examples	Interview responses long, reactive, or unfocused

POST-CAT CLARITY

A good score can boost confidence and create momentum, but the assumptions it brings often unravel in interviews and alter outcomes early

1 Assuming the score settles the direction
When candidates treat the score as a destination, they delay decisions on targeting, narrative, and institute fit, then enter interviews without a coherent through-line.

2 Treating every institute as interchangeable
When the same story is used everywhere, misalignment shows up quickly because programmes differ in culture, priorities, and what they probe for.

3 Treating applications as paperwork
When forms are filled mechanically, candidates miss the chance to build a consistent story across SOPs, WAT, and interviews.

4 Thinking facts will carry the room
When candidates lean on knowledge dumps, they miss the evaluation of judgement, perspective, and how they frame uncertainty under questioning.

SPOTLIGHT! IIM VISAKHAPATNAM

reality check

Placement TRENDS

In its 2024–25 placement season, IIM Visakhapatnam reported placements for a batch of 372, with 202 recruiters participating, including 128 new recruiters. The highest CTC was Rs 32.5 lakh, while the average CTC stood at Rs 16.40 lakh and the median at Rs 16 lakh. BFSI and IT and consulting accounted for the largest share of offers, followed by manufacturing. Recruiters included Deloitte, KPMG, EY, PwC, Accenture, Goldman Sachs, Cognizant, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, TVS, L&T, Airtel, and Godrej Properties.

Initiatives and collaborations

Over the past decade, IIM Visakhapatnam has expanded its academic and institutional footprint through research activity, entrepreneurship, and external partnerships. The institute's incubation platform, IIMV-FIELD, has supported over 180 startups and mentored more than 500 aspiring entrepreneurs across 20 states, with a large share of ventures led by women founders, and a significant proportion focused on social impact. It also hosts an Atal Incubation Centre, and runs a PG Certificate in Entrepreneurship in collaboration with SIDBI. In governance-linked work, the institute hosts the Dr B R Ambedkar Chair Professorship, and serves as anchor institution for NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme work in Alluri Sitarama Raju district, alongside MoUs with state departments for citizen-centric governance. International partnerships include Ted Rogers School of Management, Murray State University, Monash University, and Wageningen University.

Alumni snapshot

Mayank Maria **(2015–17):** Vice President, Strategy and Execution, TMT Sector, EY Parthenon

Kunal Jaitly **(2015–17):** CEO and Founder, Sepfust Solutions Private Limited

Ankit Gupta **(2015–17):** Vice President, Everest Group

Pravas Kumar Sahoo **(2015–17):** Executive Vice President, Valuation and Advisory, Decimal Point Analytics

A young campus built around first-mover programmes & public impact

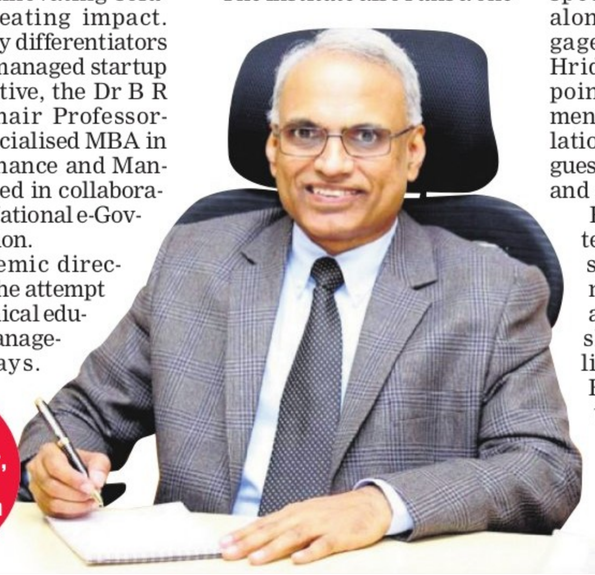
IIM Visakhapatnam positions itself as a younger institute with an emphasis on programme innovation and public-facing work. The institute cites a 'Three I's Framework' as a guiding lens, focused on identifying opportunities, innovating solutions, and creating impact. Among its early differentiators are a student-managed startup funding initiative, the Dr B R Ambedkar Chair Professorship, and a specialised MBA in Digital Governance and Management, offered in collaboration with the National e-Governance Division.

A key academic direction has been the attempt to bridge technical education with management pathways. The PGPMCI programme is designed as a modular MBA route for students from centrally funded technical institutions, aligned with the NEP 2020 dual-degree framework and multiple-entry, multiple-exit structure.

The institute also runs a one-year Executive Post Graduate Diploma in Management for officers and executives in the defence production sector.

On employability and industry exposure, the institute describes a course-level approach that brings practitioner perspectives into classrooms, alongside conclaves and engagement platforms such as Hridaya and Vriddhi. It also points to its Career Development Services and Alumni Relations office as a channel for guest lectures, leadership talks, and alumni interactions.

Research priorities span technology adoption, consumer behaviour, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and public-sector leadership, with faculty work linked to themes such as ESG, fintech, and digital trust. The institute also reports growing global exposure through partnerships, including academic work tied to Wageningen University.



Prof M Chandrasekhar, Director of IIM Visakhapatnam

What do students like about studying here?

What I value the most at IIMV is the campus culture, which is warm and collaborative. Seniors guide us from Day One, across academics, clubs, placements, and everything in between. You feel supported, challenged, and included at the same time.
— Sudarshana Gopakumar, PGP-1

Learning extends far beyond the classroom. Student-led committees and the Council of Student Affairs build leadership and interpersonal skills, and professors are approachable mentors.
— Neeraj PS, President, Students Affairs Council

What's fun on campus?

Best canteen dish: Pav bhaji at Sweet India

Informal tradition: A movie session after ConWeek, along with games, jamming, and icebreakers

Campus lingo: SI (Sweet India), DCP (Desperate Class Participation), GL (Guest Lectures), and Outliers

Best time on campus: November to February, especially for early-morning sunrises and cooler evenings

Hangout spot: Sports Complex, the Sunrise point on the running track, and Sweet India

Most Instagram-worthy spot: Amphitheatre views, hostel balconies, Football Ground, and sunrise shots across campus

Most competitive space: Sports Club selections, especially during Sectional Wars

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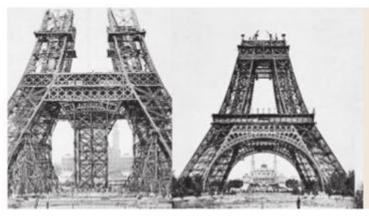


DAY'S DIARY

Building a legacy

The digging work for the Eiffel Tower, a Parisian landmark, also a technological masterpiece, started on this day in 1887

INITIAL IDEA

Emile Nouguier and Maurice Koechlin, the two chief engineers had the idea for a very tall tower. It was to be designed like a large pylon with four columns of lattice work girders

CONSTRUCTION

The construction was completed twenty-two months later. All the elements were prepared in Eiffel's factory located at Levallois-Perret

TRIVIA

Gustave Eiffel, who designed the landmark, built himself a small apartment on the top level. It had plush rugs, oil paintings, and a grand piano

CE's guide on happenings in the city

PG 2

From bringing Partition to life with sensitivity and scale in *Freedom at Midnight* to redefining OTT cinema, filmmaker Nikkhil Advani on history & the stories that drive him

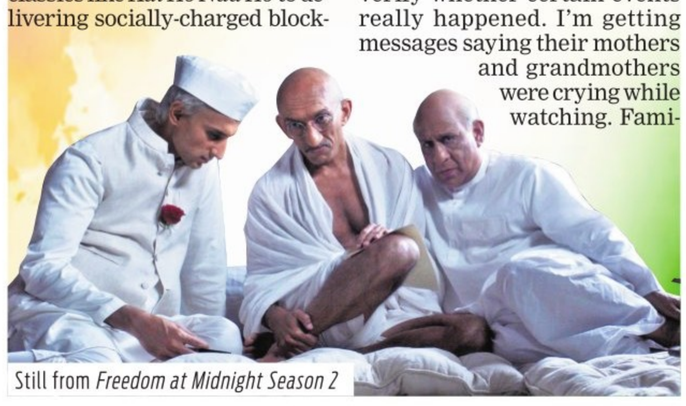
'AUDIENCE ISN'T LOOKING FOR ONE KIND OF CINEMA'

RESHMI CHAKRAVORTY

GRAND in scale, intimate in emotion, and unflinching in its portrayal of history, *Freedom at Midnight Season 2* marks yet another triumphant chapter in Nikkhil Advani's ever-evolving storytelling journey. The filmmaker, known for blending heart with heft, returns with a stirring continuation of his historical epic set against the searing backdrop of India's Partition in 1947, now streaming on SonyLIV. With its nuanced writing, powerhouse performances and a deeply respectful lens on one of the nation's most painful chapters, the new season builds on the legacy of the first and raises the emotional stakes even higher.

From giving us cult romance classics like *Kal Ho Naa Ho* to delivering socially-charged blockbusters such as *Airlift* and *Batla House*, Advani has always had his finger on the pulse of the audience. And with celebrated web series like *Mumbai Diaries 26/11*, *Rocket Boys* and *Freedom at Midnight*, he has cemented his place as one of India's most formidable forces in the OTT space.

In a candid chat with *CE*, the filmmaker opens up about the overwhelming love pouring in for *Freedom at Midnight Season 2*, the kind of stories that inspire him, and why being a hands-on husband and father is just as important to him as calling 'action' on set. **Excerpts**



Still from *Freedom at Midnight Season 2*

How has the response been to Freedom at Midnight Season 2?

It's been stunning, actually. I'm quite shocked. People are sending me screenshots of their Google searches because they're stopping the episodes to verify whether certain events really happened. I'm getting messages saying their mothers and grandmothers were crying while watching. Families are having dinner-table arguments and discussions. My colleagues from the film industry have been calling to say they watched all 14 episodes together. It's gratifying. Season one falls into the genre of a boardroom drama – almost like a chamber piece. We wanted to transport viewers into boardrooms, studies, and corridors where tough decisions were being taken in real time. You become a voyeur, participating in those conversations and understanding how complex those moments really were. Season two was always meant to be more of a thriller. The book itself shifts pace and focus. While season one is internal, season two becomes external, dealing with the army, refugees, the common man, Kashmir, and finally, the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

You showed restraint in portraying violence. Was that a conscious choice?

Absolutely. I didn't want the audience to just watch violence, I wanted them to feel like participants; to feel the fear that the victims feel. It was a terrible time. Brothers turned against brothers, neighbours against neighbours. There was no glorifying violence. There is little choreography. It had to feel chaotic and real. Shweta Venkat's editing really helped create that sense of mayhem.

As a filmmaker, what kind of stories drive you?

Drama, mainly. I don't really plan things. I've been fortunate, stories come to me from different places. Whether it was *Freedom at Midnight, Rocket Boys, Mumbai Diaries*, or *Batla House* – they all came organically. My plan is to be as unplanned as possible and keep my mind open.

When did you realise direction was your true calling?

I still haven't realised it. I still curse myself sometimes, it's tough. You're constantly putting yourself out there to be judged. But I love being on set. That's my break. I love being surrounded by people who have blind faith in what I'm trying to create. I'm lucky I get to do what I love – telling stories.

Has your understanding of cinema evolved over the years?

Of course. It has to. Art imitates life and life imitates art. Society evolves, people evolve and storytelling evolves.

Which genre challenges you the most?

Comedy. It's very personal. What I find funny, you might not. But making people cry is universal. Comedy is scary, that's why I've stayed away from it.

Has OTT changed the game for you as a filmmaker?

It's benefited me tremendously. Some reviewers say I've become a master of long-form storytelling, though I still have a long way to go. *(laughs)* I love shows like *Paatal Lok* and *Kohrra*. Long-form storytelling has opened up exciting possibilities.

What kind of stories do you think Indian audiences crave today?

India is too big to generalise. That's why the multiplex culture is important – people can choose what they want to watch. The audience isn't just looking for one kind of cinema anymore. They're open to experimenting.

Who is Nikkhil Advani beyond filmmaking?

A husband and a father. That's what I'm most proud of. Filmmaking should be the means to live your life, not your entire life. The life I want to live is being a good husband and a good father.

Has cinema taught you any life lessons?

Never take anything too seriously. Once a film is out, it no longer belongs to me; it belongs to the audience. They have the right to criticise it, reject it, or celebrate it.

Any message for young filmmakers?

I always quote Francis Ford Coppola: "If you can sit, don't stand. If you can sleep, don't sit."

What's next for you?

A period-drama series, *The Revolutionaries* will come out in the second half of the year – it's set between 1912 and 1915, before Gandhi returned to India. Based on Sanjeev Sanyal's book, *Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom*, focusing on the lesser-known young Indian freedom fighters who advocated armed resistance against British rule. If the rest of the year goes the way January has, I'll be a happy man!

SPLASH OF PINK

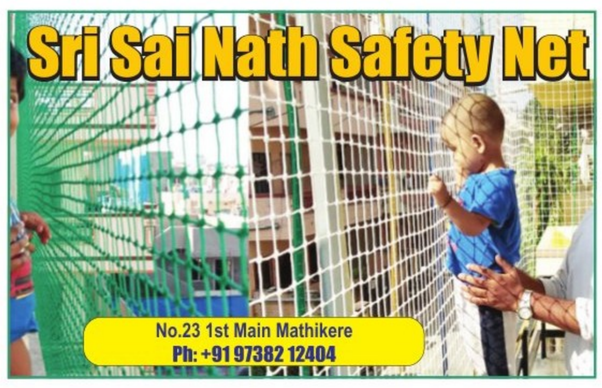
WAKE up, lace up, show up! Thousands of women followed this mantra and turned up in large numbers for Pinkathon, a run exclusively for women, held on Sunday morning at Sree Kanteerava Stadium. Helmed by actor-fitness icon Milind Soman, the run painted the town pink!

PICS: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

CITY READ

Populism, power and media take centre stage at MediaCon 2026

Students must arm themselves intellectually, as forces such as populism and authoritarianism will now confront them as everyday decisions instead of being mere abstract political ideas, opined film director Dibakar Banerjee on Friday, while speaking about power and dominant narratives at the inaugural ceremony of the 10th edition of MediaCon International Conference and the Association fests of School of Communication and Media Studies (SCMS) at St. Joseph's University auditorium. The ceremony was presided over by the Vice Chancellor Rev. Victor Lobo, Dean of SCMS, Melwyn Pinto and coordinators. Themed Populism and Media, this edition examined how digital platforms, legacy media and alternative voices shape political discourse, public opinion and democratic participation in an increasingly polarised global context.



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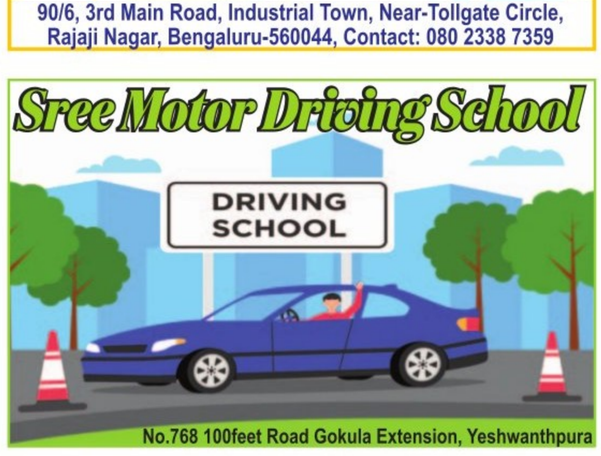

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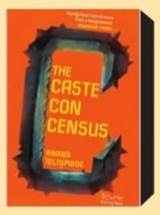
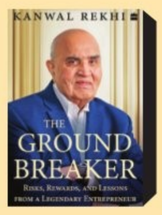
SCAN FOR LOCATION

BOOK NOOK



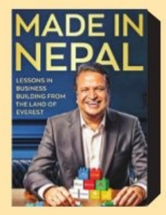
The Caste Con Census
By Anand Teltumbde

This book examines the politics and implications of conducting a caste census in contemporary India. Moving through history, policy and power, the book questions who benefits from visibility, who resists it, and why counting can be political.



The Ground Breaker
by Kanwal Rekhi

A memoir of entrepreneurship that tracks risk, reinvention and the choices that shape a modern founder's life. The book looks at lessons from a long career in startups and investing, asking what it really takes to build at scale.



Made in Nepal
by Binod Chaudhary

This book is a business memoir that traces one entrepreneur's rise from local trade to a regional company, blending practical lessons with cultural observation.

The Award
by Matthew Pearl

A writer's unexpected relationship with a celebrated author brings literary ambition and authenticity into uneasy conversation. Set against the competitive circuits of prize culture, the novel quietly explores authority, influence and what it means to earn a place in the canon.

NOTE IN SIGHT

Hindustani musician Pandit Nagaraj Rao Havaldar reaches for a note at a recent event highlighting Karnataka's contributions to the tradition held at the Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi | **NAGARAJA GADEKAL**

QUICKFIX

FUDGY COCOA BROWNIES

INGREDIENTS

- **Maida:** 1/2 cup
- **Hershey's cocoa:** 1/4 cup
- **Powdered sugar (or grind regular sugar):** 3/4 cup
- **Eggs:** 2
- **Oil (any neutral oil):** 1/3 cup
- **Baking powder:** 1/2 tsp
- **Salt:** 1/4 tsp
- **Chocolate chips:** 1/2 cup
- **Chopped almonds, walnuts:** 1/4 cup each
- **Pumpkin seeds:** 2 tbsp

METHOD

- Preheat oven to 170°C. Line your tin with baking paper or oil and dust with maida.
- Beat the eggs and sugar for 1-2 minutes till glossy and slightly thick. Mix in the oil till it looks smooth and shiny.
- Sift in cocoa, maida, baking powder and salt. Fold gently. Do not overmix.
- Add chocolate chips, almonds, walnuts and pumpkin seeds.
- Pour into dish. Tap to remove bubbles. Bake at 170°C for 22–28 minutes.
- Do a toothpick test; it should come out with moist crumbs.
- Let it cool at least 30 minutes before cutting.

Contributed by **Annapoorna,** Bengaluru

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

Can bunnies eat fish or chicken? Is it okay to make variations to my five-year-old bunny's vegetarian diet for strength?

Rabbits are obligate herbivores, meaning their digestive systems are designed exclusively for plant-based foods. Feeding fish, chicken, or any animal protein is unsafe and can lead to severe, potentially life-threatening gastrointestinal problems. For a five-year-old female rabbit, the diet should primarily consist of high-quality hay, fresh leafy greens and a controlled amount of rabbit pellets. Safe vegetables can be offered occasionally for variety and mental stimulation. To maintain overall health, provide constant access to clean water, encourage exercise, and support dental health with fibrous foods. Any supplements or dietary adjustments should be made under the guidance of a veterinarian experienced in rabbit care.

FITBIT

WHY YOU NEED BOTH NUTRITION AND FITNESS FOR OPTIMAL HEALTH

Optimal health can be achieved with a combination of nutrition and fitness. While exercise gives a better body composition, strength and endurance; your nutrition directly affects how you perform, recover and adapt to that training.

1. WHAT YOU EAT FUELS PERFORMANCE:

Everything that you consume has different uses for your body. While carbohydrates is used as the preferred energy source during workout, proteins are used for muscle building, and healthy fats for sustained energy and nutrient absorption. Without balanced macronutrients (carbs, protein, fat), workouts can feel more fatiguing and recovery slower.

2. NUTRITION AND ACTIVITY PLAY OFF EACH OTHER:

Exercise and nutrition are very much dependent on each other. For example, if a combined carbohydrate-plus-protein is taken before or after training, it can reduce muscle damage and speed repair. This synergy is important for performance and recovery and staying consistent with your training.

3. EVERYDAY EATING AFFECTS OVERALL FITNESS OUTCOMES:

Performance food choices help fight inflammation, improve blood flow, and assist recovery while supporting your workout energy. They also boost your oxygen delivery and reduce oxidative stress, so you feel better during and after workouts.

4. HYDRATION MATTER:

Staying well hydrated supports cardiovascular performance, temperature control, and muscle function. Staying dehydrated will lead only to fatigue, reduced power output, and impaired recovery.

5. SUSTAINABLE HABITS BEAT QUICK FIXES:

If it seems too much to make the sudden changes, you can start with bringing small realistic changes for better long term benefits.

Fitness is needed to keep your body fit. In the same way nutrition plays a major role in providing the energy your body needs to perform, recover, and better adapt to make your body remain healthy during any training.

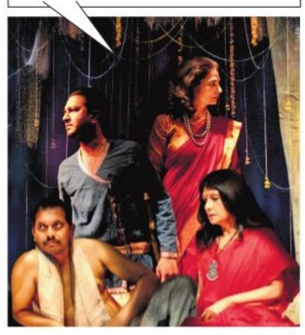
By Madhura P Behki, nutrition expert, cult— a fitness and wellness platform

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Theatrical Tale

Experience a staging of Girish Karnad's popular play, *Bali: The Sacrifice*, in which a king is caught between his Jain queen who refuses to harm life and his mother who believes in sacrificial rites.

WHERE: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield
WHEN: January 29, 7.30pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Get Creative

Unleash your creativity and experience the joy of making things with your own hands at this miniature clay magnet workshop. Beginners and experienced crafters alike will get to learn how to make cute fruits, flowers and more.

WHERE: Thirdspace Art Cafe, Koramangala
WHEN: January 26, 2pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Run with Purpose

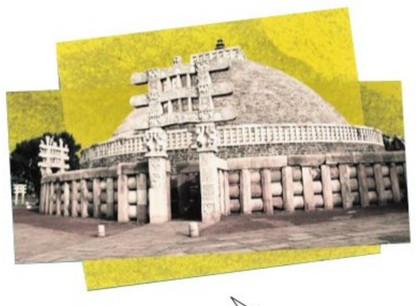
Kick off Republic Day by supporting a cause at Run & Cyclathon hosted by The Green School Bangalore and The Bangalore School for the occasion. The event aims to promote safer roads, responsible mobility and child safety. It will be flagged off by MLA Sharath Bache Gowda with participation from the school community, runners and cyclists.

WHERE: The Green School Bangalore Campus, Whitefield
WHEN: January 26, 6am
CALL: 73497 91694

SPIRITUAL WALK

Sri Sai Sevakaru is organising Pallakki Utsav of Shirdi Sai which will start from Sri Sai Spiritual Centre, Thyagarajanagar. The devotional procession will then progress through Bull Temple Road, Ramakrishna Ashram, Mysore Road, Royan Circle, Sri Shiva Sai Mandir at Anand Rao Circle, Malleswaram Circle, and Sampige Circle, culminating at Sri Sai Mandali, Malleswaram.

WHERE: Sri Sai Spiritual Centre, Thyagarajanagar
WHEN: January 26, 9am onwards



Stories of Sculpting

Isamu Noguchi, one of the preeminent sculptors of the 20th century, wrote that the ancient site of Mahabalipuram was his 'first and most authentic lesson', visiting India 11 times in his life. At this talk, learn about the sculptor's enduring attentiveness towards the stone sculpture of early India including ancient sites such as Sanchi, Elephanta and Mahabalipuram. **WHERE:** Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
WHEN: January 27, 6.30pm **DETAILS:** bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Back on Stage

After a hiatus, comedian **Yash Rathi** is ready to take on the Bengaluru stage at this comedy night. With fresh jokes, sharper and darker punchlines, this show promises to make the audience part of a night in which anything can happen.

WHERE: The Underground Comedy Club, Koramangala
WHEN: January 26, 6pm and 8pm
DETAILS: district.in

Anniversary Feast

To celebrate 30 years of serving Indo-Portuguese food to Bengalureans, Helen's Place invites guests to indulge in its signature food and drinks, including standout dishes include avocado corn crunch with green pea hummus, ricotta bites with walnut and honey, Vietnamese chicken curry with jasmine rice, silken tofu with broccoli and black bean stir-fry, among others.

WHERE: Marathahalli
WHEN: January 26, 12pm **CALL:** 96203 47095

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
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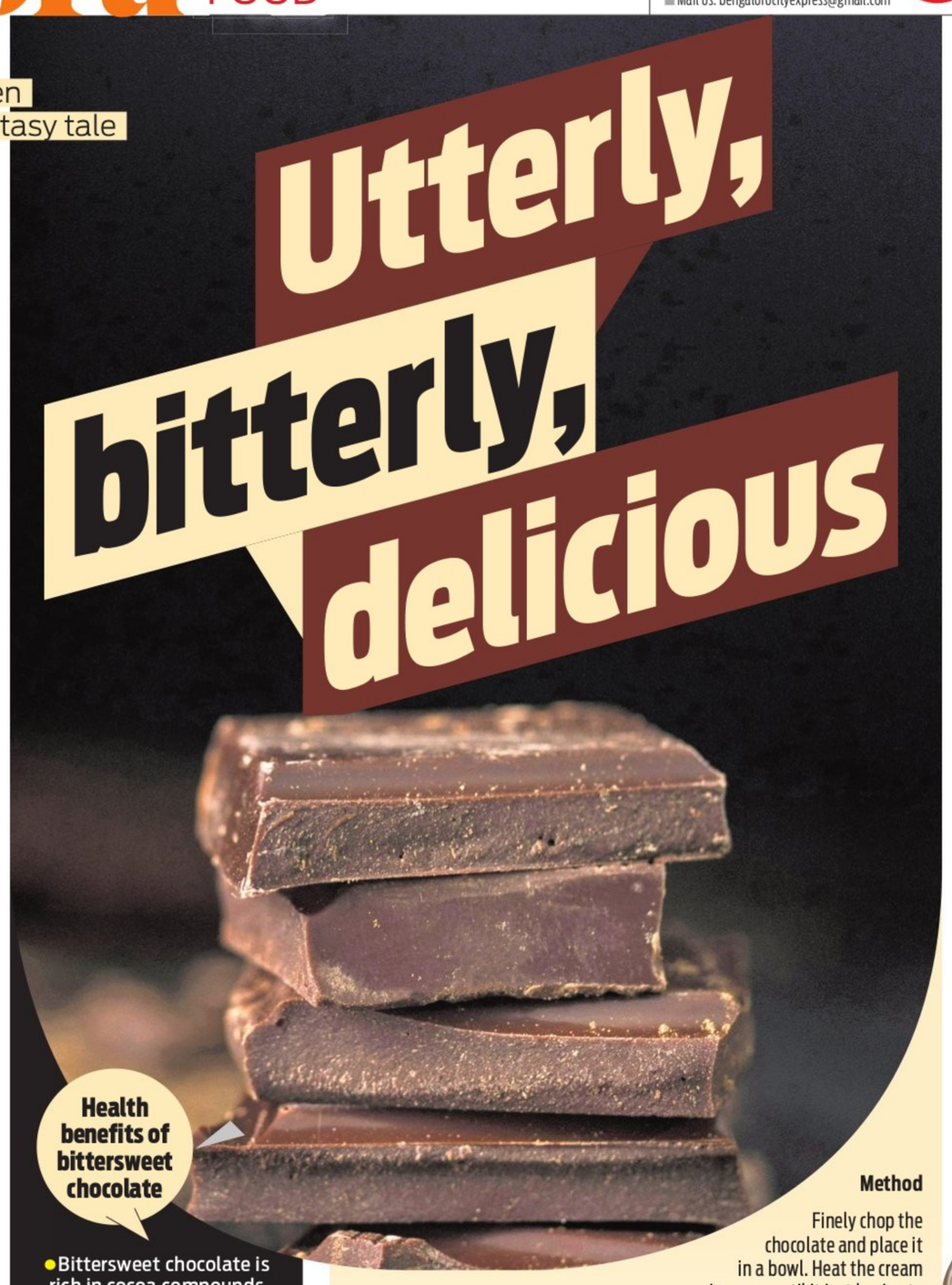
ARTCORNER

HALFWAY HOUSE

Artist Vatsya Padia creates a unique artwork by superimposing vibrant watercolours on an old photograph

Utterly, bitterly, delicious

With Bittersweet Chocolate Day having been marked recently, let's dive into this dark fantasy tale



PARVANA K B

IT is interesting how two opposite ideas come together in the phrase bittersweet chocolate. The word bitter usually comes with a raised eyebrow, rarely linked to anything pleasant. Sweet, on the other hand, stands for comfort and ease – something people instinctively reach for, in flavour and in feeling. Yet, when bitter and sweet meet in chocolate, they create a flavour that feels richer, stronger, deeper, and, for many, healthier.

Chocolate has long lived in a sweet space, but it did not begin with a sweet past. In that sense, bittersweet chocolate sits closer to chocolate's ancestors. Bittersweet chocolate typically contains around 70 per cent cacao. This higher cacao content gives it a deep chocolate flavour with less sweetness and a slightly dry texture.

Before chocolate got sweet

The seeds of the cacao tree are naturally bitter, so bitter that they are almost inedible unless treated carefully. What we call chocolate is the result of centuries of learning how to work with that bitterness.

The journey of chocolate begins as cacao beans which undergo a series of steps, starting with fermentation. Then, they are dried, cleaned, and roasted. Roasting helps develop flavour and makes it easier to remove the outer shell, leaving behind cacao nibs. These nibs are ground into a thick paste called cocoa mass, which is chocolate in its most basic form.

The cocoa mass is then heated until it becomes liquid and is shaped with or without additional ingredients. In this stage, it is known as chocolate liquor. The liquor can also be separated into cocoa solids and cocoa butter.

Bittersweet chocolate is made primarily from chocolate liquor, cocoa butter, and a small amount of sugar. Dark chocolate is a broader category that also contains cocoa solids and cocoa butter, with varying amounts of sugar. In simple terms, bittersweet chocolate retains cacao's natural bitterness while allowing just enough sweetness for balance.

Chocolate before the factory

When looking into chocolate, one inevitably ends up in Central America around 400 CE, where cacao trees grew abundantly in what is now parts of Mexico and Guatemala, especially Mayan territories.

Legend has it that the Maya first noticed monkeys consuming the bitter pulp around cacao pods. Curious, they began experimenting with the beans themselves and created a drink.

They crushed cacao into a paste and mixed it with water, spices, and natural flavourings like vanilla and chilli. This drink was bitter, spiced, and not sweet like today. It was consumed during important rituals, celebrations, and even funerals.

Civilisations like the Toltecs and later the Aztecs came with more ideas, even myths. They believed cacao was a divine gift, given to humans by the god-king Quetzalcóatl. The cacao tree itself was revered, and called the tree of paradise.

Over time, cacao beans became so valuable that they became currency. They could be traded across regions, regardless of language or culture.

Europe changed the taste

Everything shifted when cacao reached Europe.

European palates, which were unfamiliar with spicy, bitter drinks, replaced spices with cane sugar. The bitterness was softened, and the drinks became something sweeter and smoother. This adaptation spread quickly. Chocolate moved from ritual to luxury, and eventually to everyday indulgence.

By the late 18th century, chocolate production entered an industrial phase. It is believed that the first chocolate factory was established in Barcelona in 1780.

In 19th-century Paris, a pharmacist from the Marais district prepared a range of products for other chemists, including chocolate used to improve the taste of certain medicines. This led to the creation of what is considered the first chocolate bar.

Bittersweet Chocolate Day

As chocolate became widespread, its bitterness was masked to suit mass tastes. But bittersweet chocolate stands apart, to a certain extent, resisting that masking. That may be why it is not love at first taste.

Every year in January, many parts of the world observe Bittersweet Chocolate Day – a nod to the darker, older side of chocolate's history.

Health benefits of bittersweet chocolate

- Bittersweet chocolate is rich in cocoa compounds that provide minerals such as zinc and amino acids, supporting heart health.
- Its natural antioxidants help neutralise free radicals and reduce oxidative stress.
- Flavonoids and other plant compounds promote healthy blood flow and cardiovascular function.
- Polyphenols in cocoa help nourish beneficial gut bacteria.
- Flavanols may support overall body function and help maintain energy levels when consumed in moderation.
- Cocoa supplies essential minerals like iron, magnesium, copper, and zinc, contributing to bone health.

Soft-centre chocolate bites

Ingredients

- Bittersweet chocolate - 225 g
- Fresh cream (malai or whipping cream) – 2/3cup
- Unsalted butter – 1 tablespoon
- Vanilla essence – ½ teaspoon
- Unsweetened cocoa powder or chocolate sprinkles – for coating

Method

Finely chop the chocolate and place it in a bowl. Heat the cream in a pan until it just begins to bubble at the edges. Pour the hot cream over the chocolate and let it sit for 2 minutes. Stir gently until the chocolate melts completely and the mixture is smooth. Add butter, vanilla essence and mix well. Refrigerate the mixture for 3–4 hours until firm. Scoop small portions, roll into balls, and coat with cocoa powder or sprinkles.

Bittersweet chocolate yoghurt bowl

Ingredients

- Yoghurt– 1 cup
- Bittersweet chocolate – 50 g
- Honey or date syrup – 1–2 teaspoons (optional)
- Chopped fruits or nuts – as required

Method: Melt the bittersweet chocolate using a double boiler or microwave. Whisk the melted chocolate into the yoghurt until smooth. Add honey or date syrup if needed. Top with fruits or nuts and serve chilled.

Protein chocolate pulse cookies

Ingredients

- Boiled chickpeas – 1½ cups
- Peanut butter – ½ cup
- Jaggery syrup or honey – ¼ cup
- Baking powder – 1 teaspoon
- Vanilla essence – 1 teaspoon
- Salt – a pinch
- Bittersweet chocolate chips – ½ cup

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C and line a baking tray with parchment paper. Blend chickpeas, peanut butter, jaggery syrup, baking powder, vanilla and salt into a smooth dough. Fold in the chocolate chips. Shape the dough into small cookies and place them on the tray. Bake for 14–15 minutes until lightly golden.

Chocolate spiced milk

Ingredients

- Milk – 1 cup
- Bittersweet chocolate (finely chopped) – 40 g
- Jaggery (grated or powdered) – 1–2 teaspoons
- Dry ginger powder – a pinch
- Black pepper – a pinch
- Cardamom powder – ¼ teaspoon
- Salt – a very small pinch

Method

Heat the milk on a low flame until it is hot but not boiling. Add the chopped bittersweet chocolate and stir until it melts completely. Add jaggery and stir until dissolved. Add dry ginger powder, crushed pepper, cardamom powder and a tiny pinch of salt. Simmer for 1–2 minutes on low flame, stirring gently. Strain if needed and serve warm.

Chocolate sandwich

Ingredients

- Marie biscuits – 24 halves
- Bittersweet chocolate squares – 12 pieces
- Marshmallows – 12 large

Method

Place 12 biscuit halves on a plate and top each with a square of chocolate. Toast marshmallows over a gas flame, grill, or kitchen torch until lightly browned. Place one hot marshmallow over each chocolate square. Cover with another biscuit half and gently press so the chocolate softens.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KARTHIK .K, S/o Sri B R Krishna Murthy, R/at No.39/2, 3rd main, 4th Cross, Malleshpalya, Bangalore North, Post Office, New Thippasandra District, Bangalore, Karnataka-560075, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **KARTHIK B.K** and **KARTHIK K** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be called and Known as **KARTHIK K** vide affidavit dated 2nd Jan 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ANITHA BAI** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, NAVEED ABDUL KHADER, S/o. M Abdul Khader, residing at No. 4201, Prestige Gulmohar, Jayanthi Nagar, Horamavu, Bangalore 560113. my name is mentioned in Driving Licence as **"NAVEED A KHADER"** instead of **"NAVEED ABDUL KHADER"** Both names one and the same Both belongs to me only. Vide affidavit dated 24.01.2026, sworn to before Notary, B.Sheshagiri, at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **C. ROHITH MENON** (New Name) previously called **C. ROHITH,** S/o. K. Haridas, date of birth: 06/10/1988, residing at Sobha Dream Acres, Flat No.25116, Wing-25, Balagere Main Road, Varthur, Bangalore-560087. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'C. ROHITH'** to **'C. ROHITH MENON',** Vide Affidavit dated 24.01.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary A.M. Rajasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANJALI KUMARI SAH,** aged about 26 years, D/o. Lalbabu Prasad Shah Teli, No. 44, Raghavendra Niliya, 8th Cross, Balaji Layout, Bengaluru-560094, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANJALI KUMARI SHAH TELI** to **ANJALI KUMARI SAH,** vide affidavit dated 23.01.2026, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JAYESH DESAI @ JAYESH JAIRAM DESAI,** aged about 54 years, S/o Sri.Jairam Desai., Residing at E904, Ajmera Infinity, Neeladri Road, Opp Mcdonalds Electronic City Phase-1, Bangalore-560100 (AADHAAR No.8563 8348 2110) in all the educational records, proceedings, records, and Aadhaar Card, my Daughter name has been stated as **SHRUTI JAYESH DESAI** and father name of minor child is Jayesh Desai. But in My Daughter Passport name is shown as DESAI SHRUTI, and Father Name Jayesh Jairam Desai and correct name of my Daughter is **SHRUTI JAYESH DESAI and her father name of Jayesh Desai** vide affidavit dated 24/01/2026, sworn before the Notary Advocate, Uday Kumar K.,. Advocate & Notary Public Govt of India Reg.No. 22116. Phone No. 9869375587.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, TADIKAMALLA CHENCHU VENKATA SUDHAKAR BABU, S/o T V Subba Rao, R/at No. A-1304, Brigade Gardenia, near Capitol Public School, RBI Layout, JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore-560 078 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **TADIKAMMALA CHECHU VENKATA SUDHAKAR BABU** to **TADIKAMALLA CHENCHU VENKATA SUDHAKAR BABU,** henceforth I shall be called and Known as **TADIKAMALLA CHENCHU VENKATA SUDHAKAR BABU** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 19-01-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **T.V. GOVINDAPPA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, STELLA CHARLET.V W/o.Late Mohan.V, residing at No. Type B-1/4, DAD Quarters, Cambridge Layout, Someshwarapura Extension, Cambridge Layout, Halasuru, Bengaluru 560008, have changed my Minor Daughter's name from **LYDIA HONEY.V to V.M.LYDIA HONEY** vide affidavit dated 24-01-2026 sworn before Notary K.Venkateshan., Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, Noble Thysseril Joseph S/o Joseph Kutty John aged 26 years residing at Siri Springs Apartment, Flat No.403, 3rd Floor, 28th Main, 48th Cross, Poornapragna Layout, Uttarahalli, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru - 560061, declare that below said names i.e., **NOBLE T.J** and **NOBLE THYSSERIL JOSEPH** refer to me only and they are not different persons, vide affidavit dated 24/1/2026 sworn to before T C Thimmaraja Advocate and Notary Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GNANAMBALLE**, residing at No.16, 5th B Block, 33rd Main, Banagiri Nagara, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560085, have changed my name to **GNANAMBAL** as per affidavit dated 24/01/2026 notarised by Mr. HEGDE GANAPATI VENKATARAMAN. Henceforth, I shall be known as **GNANAMBAL** for all future purpose.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, NANJESHGOWDA J.S, aged about 49 years, S/o Siddegowda, R/at No.409, 5th Cross, Vidyamanyanagar, Andrahalli, Bangalore-560091, do hereby declare all the names i.e. **JAMBUR SIDDEGOWDA NANJESHGOWDA** and **NANJESHGOWDA J.S** and **NANJEGOWDA** are one and the same and refers to me only vide affidavit dated 13th Jan 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **H.R. KARUNAKARA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, STELLA CHARLET.V W/o.Late Mohan.V, residing at No. Type B-1/4, DAD Quarters, Cambridge Layout, Someshwarapura Extension, Cambridge Layout, Halasuru, Bengaluru 560008, have changed my Minor Son's name from **KRUTHIK MANOJ to KRUTHIK MANOJ.V.** vide affidavit dated 24-01-2026 sworn before Notary K.Venkateshan., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANANY NARAYAN,** S/o. Lokesh Narayan, aged 26 years, residing at 123, Vanshree Richfields, Marathahalli Outer Ring Road, Opposite Kalamandir Showroom, Marathalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 037, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANANY NARAYAN** to **REYANSH ANANY NARAYAN.** Vide affidavit dated 24.01.2026 sworn to before K.V. Jagannath Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GOBALAKICHENANE**, residing at No.16, 5th B Block, 33rd Main, Banagiri Nagara, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560085, have changed my name to **GOPALAKRISHNAN** as per affidavit dated 24/01/2026 notarised by Mr. HEGDE GANAPATI VENKATARAMAN. Hence forth, I shall be known as **GOPALAKRISHNAN** for all future purpose.

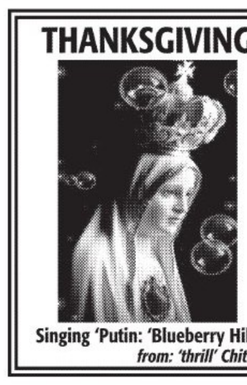
CHANGE OF NAME
I. VASRAM KANJI MERA, Aged about 43 years, S/o., Mr.Kanji Raghu Mera Residing at #817, 4th Floor, 10th Main Road, 10th Cross, 2nd Stage, Binnamangala, Near Sree Cauvery School, Indiranagar, Bengaluru,-560038,
Have Changed my Son's name from **"RITHIK"** to **"RITHIK VASRAM MERA"** vide affidavit dated 21/01/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary **Mohan Kumar. N,** at Bangaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **B. MANJULA,** W/o Virupakshi Mysore, residing at No.410/510, West Block, Sathya Green Apartment, Thindlu, B.K. Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore North - 560 097, Have changed My Name from **B. MANJULA** to **MANJULA B.** Vide Affidavit Dated 18.12.2025 sworn before Notary- H.K. Gopalagowda , Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASHIKA ESHWAR**, aged about 30 years, W/o. Eshwar Seerpu Mahendra, No. 48/1, 1sr Floor, East Anjaneya Temple Street, Parallel to DVG Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ASHIKA METHUKU** to **ASHIKA ESHWAR,** vide affidavit dated 23.01.2026, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **S DHANANJAY** and **S PREETHI** both husband and wife Residing at No. 51, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068 hereby state that in my minor's daughter ISHITHA.D's school record her name is mentioned as **ISHITHA DHANANJAY** instead of **ISHITHA.D.** Name have been rectified as said above vide affidavit dated 23-01-2026 before Notary Aarvind Patil, Bangalore

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING

Singing 'Putin: 'Blueberry Hill'
from: 'thrill' Chitra

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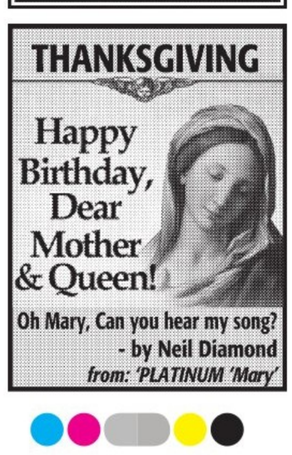
Happy Birthday, Dear Mother & Queen!
Oh Mary, Can you hear my song? - by Neil Diamond
from: 'PLATINUM 'Mary'

THANKSGIVING

Thankgiving to St. Jude for favours received.
By LEENA

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving to Sacred Heart for favours received.
By LEENA

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving to our Lady of Lourds for favours received.
By LEENA

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving to our Lady of Velanganni for favours received.
By LEENA

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Cinema found me through social media: Chethan Shetty

CE FEATURES

CHETHAN Shetty's journey to direction has been shaped by persistence, chance encounters, and a passion for cinema. While filmmaking has always been on his mind, Chethan worked as a medical representative in the interim. "Cinema was always my goal, but life took me through different paths before I could finally reach here," says Chethan, as he gears up for *Seat Edge* release on January 30.

His first hands-on experience came through co-directing *Chemistry of Kariyappa* and *Critical Keerthanegalu*, which gave him the confidence to pursue independent direction. "Those films taught me how to handle actors, production pressure, and storytelling. After that, I knew I had to make my own film," Chethan recalls. In 2023, he began approaching producers and, interestingly, made his first contact through social media, which played a big role in connecting him to the right people. Chethan chose to make his directorial debut with a horror-comedy titled *Seat Edge*, inspired by everyday observations and digital culture. "The idea began when I saw my friends vlogging. They were not famous, but they loved recording everything. Around the same time, I was writing horror content and watching a lot of Gaurav Tiwari's videos. At my house, I noticed small, unusual things, and somewhere I started feeling like something was happening around me. It could be imagination, but that feeling stayed."

That's when he connected vlog culture with ghost hunting. "Today, vloggers are obsessed with content and used to negative comments. I thought, what if that obsession leads them into something paranormal? That's how I linked my friends' vlogging, ghost hunting, and Gaurav Tiwari's incidents." Chethan adds that the film also takes cues from the mysterious circumstances surrounding Gaurav Tiwari's death. "Fictionally, if Gaurav Tiwari had come to Bengaluru, what could have happened? His death is still a mystery, and we have captured that idea in true moments within the film."

Chethan Shetty

While ghost-hunting themes are familiar, Chethan says *Seat Edge* goes deeper into the paranormal while keeping entertainment intact. "Horror-comedy usually doesn't give space for emotion. It is mostly for fun. But I have balanced comedy and horror with twists. Once the ghost hunters enter, the tone shifts, and mystery takes over."

Opening up on casting Siddu Moolimani, Chethan says, "I have watched Siddu's work since his school days; he was my junior, and I always knew he had strong acting skills. Also, a vlogger needs someone who talks a lot, and Siddhu is perfect for that."

Produced by Giridhara T Vasanthapura under the NR Cinema Productions banner, the film stars Raviksha Shetty along with Raghu Ramanakoppa, Girish Shivanna, and Mimicry Gopi, among others, in pivotal roles.

The shoot came with its own challenges. "We had many night shoots, and timing was difficult. There were also strange moments. When we were shooting near HMT, there was a small fire accident nearby. People often say that horror films attract unusual experiences, which makes them even more curious for us. But cinema is passion, none of this feels like suffering."

Chethan asserts that the title has a metaphorical meaning. "People say they watch thrillers sitting on the edge of their seats. That's how *Seat Edge* came," he explains. Calling this his first major step, Chethan reflects, "Cinema found me through social media, the producer found me through social media, and now the film is also about social media. I hope that connection reaches the audience."

DIGANTH'S NEXT TO BE A CRIME THRILLER

A SHARADHAA

AFTER receiving praise for his intense performance in *Edagayege Apagathake Karana*, Diganth finds himself at a crossroads. Attention is now on him as he expands his presence beyond Kannada cinema. All eyes are on the actor for his Telugu film *Maa Inti Bangaram*, in which he stars alongside Samantha.

As anticipation builds for that release, Diganth has signed on for another project. This time, he will return to storytelling that focuses on crime and family emotions within a thriller format. The untitled film will be directed by Gopi Ramesh, known for adapting emotionally driven stories. He previously remade Suni's Kannada hit *Simple Aagi Ondu Love Story* in Telugu as *Idi Naa Love Story* and directed a Kannada film, *Yaarige Beku Ee Loka,* which is yet to release, In this new film, Gopi Ramesh teams up with Diganth for the first time and plans to bring out a Kannada-Telugu bilingual.

Naveen, Diganth, Ramesh, and Gopi

The film is set to officially launch in February. It will be the first production under the banner RN Productions, backed by producers Ramesh Naik and Naveen. The film being a crime thriller focused on family dynamics, the project aims to blend genre appeal with relatable emotional stakes. Diganth's role is expected to showcase both intensity and vulnerability.

On the technical side, cinematographer Christopher Joseph will handle the visuals, while the music director is yet to be chosen. Interestingly, director and lyricist Chethan Kumar will write the songs. Popular reality show choreographer Rudra Master will make his film debut with this project. Action sequences will be designed by Chinnayya.

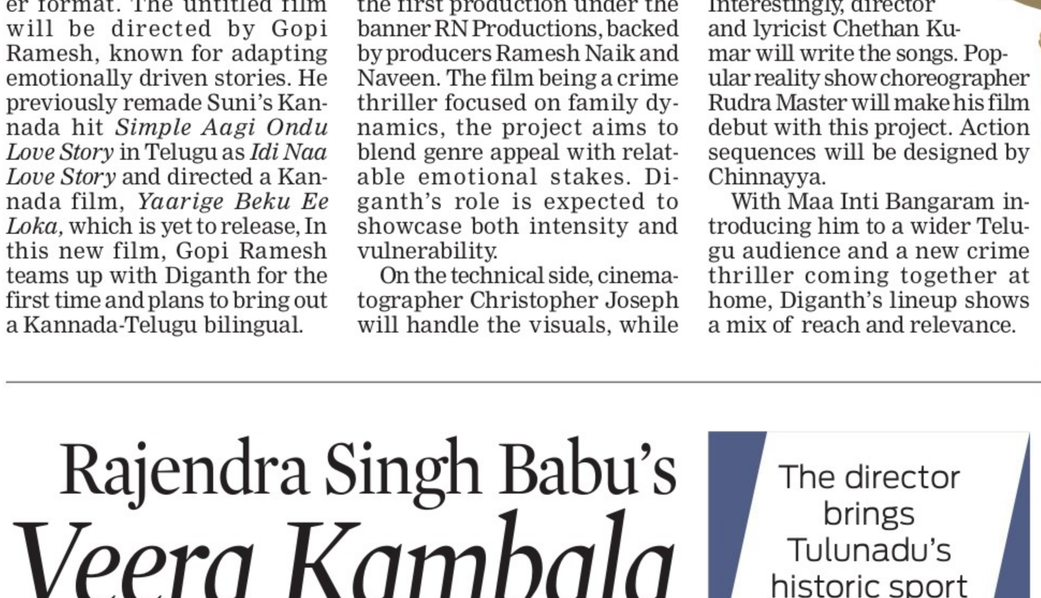
With Maa Inti Bangaram introducing him to a wider Telugu audience and a new crime thriller coming together at home, Diganth's lineup shows a mix of reach and relevance.

The film, directed by Gopi Ramesh, is set to be a Kannada-Telugu bilingual

Diganth

Rajendra Singh Babu's *Veera Kambala* to release in February

The director brings Tulunadu's historic sport to the big screen



Rajendra Singh Babu

CE FEATURES

VETERAN director SV Rajendra Singh Babu is planning to release *Raktha Kashmira* soon. He is also bringing *Veera Kambala* to theaters this February. The official date will be announced soon. Rooted in the soil and spirit of Tulunadu, this Kannada-Tulu bilingual film is inspired by Kambala, the indigenous buffalo race that has thrived for over 800 years. The sport is a defining symbol of coastal Karnataka's farming culture, and has faced legal and social challenges over time. The film explores the history, cultural roots, and evolution of the sport over the years.

Rajendra Singh Babu reveals he spent nearly two years researching the sport and crafting the story and screenplay. Renowned Tulu theatre director Vijay Kodialbail collaborated on the screenplay and dialogues, ensuring accuracy and cultural depth. Actor Aditya, known for *Deadly Soma*, plays the lead while Prakash Raj and Ravishankar appear in key roles.

Dr Vinitha Vijay Kumar Reddy

To recreate the scale of real Kambala events, the team built a large race track near Moodbidri in Dakshina Kannada. Each day of filming involved over 500 participants and about 20 pairs of buffaloes. For realism, Srinivasa Gowda, known for his record-breaking Kambala runs, performs racing sequences in the film, joined by Swaraj Shetty. Parts of the film were also shot in Dubai, expanding the visual scope of the story.

Produced by Dr Vinita Vijay Kumar Reddy and Arun Rai Todar under the Baba's Blessing Films banner, *Veera Kambala* features Radhika Chethan in a special role, along with an ensemble cast of noted Tulu theatre actors, including Naveen Padil, Gopinath Bhat, and Bhojaraj Vamanjoor. On the technical front, the film has music by Manikanth Kadri, cinematography by R Giri, editing by Srinivas S Babu, art direction by Chandrashekar Suvarna Mulki, and costumes by Kantha Prasadan and Bhasha.

Patricia Clarkson to star in Martin Scorsese's next

CE FEATURES

PATRICIA Clarkson is set to join Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence in Martin Scorsese's much-anticipated film, What Happens at Night, from Apple Studios and Studiocanal.

Adapted from the eponymous novel by Peter Cameron, the story revolves around a married couple who travel to a small European town to adopt a baby. As they check into a deserted hotel, they meet an eccentric set of characters, including a flamboyant chanteuse, a depraved businessman, and a charismatic faith healer. Patrick Marber has written the script for the big-screen adaptation.

Lena Heady joins *Red, White, and Royal Wedding*

CE FEATURES

THE cast of *Red, White & Royal Wedding* has expanded with the addition of Game of Thrones star Lena Headey and Chloe Fineman, who was recently seen in Freakier Friday. An official sequel to the 2023 film Red, White & Royal Blue, the upcoming film recently went on floors with Nicholas Galitzine and Taylor Zakhar Perez reprising their roles as Prince Henry and Alex Claremont-Diaz.

While Headey will portray Princess Catherine, Fineman's role has not been revealed yet. They will join returning cast members Uma Thurman, Sarah Shahi, Rachel Hilson, Ellie Bamber, Clifton Collins Jr., Stephen Fry, Thomas Flynn, Aneesh Sheth, and Malcolm Atobrah. The upcoming film will be directed by Jamie Babbit from a script by Gemma Burgess, Matthew López, and Red, White & Royal Blue author Casey McQuiston.

Bell Bottom producer Santhosh Kumar KC to back Samarth Kadkol's *Hubballi Hunters*

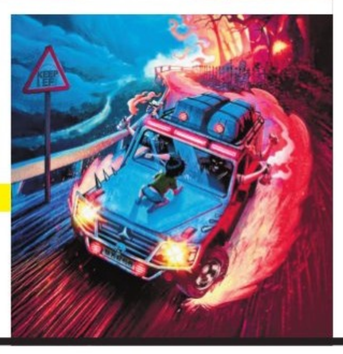
CE FEATURES

SANTOSH Kumar KC, who produced the 2019 Kannada hit *Bell Bottom* starring Rishab Shetty, has joined filmmaker Samarth Kadkol, known for *Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana,* to create a new horror-comedy titled *Hubballi Hunters*. This project unites two creators who focus on engaging narratives while experimenting with modern storytelling styles. The film is produced under the Golden Horse banner and marks the production house's return after a seven-year break. This collaboration signals a shift toward stories that are deeply rooted in local culture but fit within popular genres. It allows the local setting to significantly shape the narrative.

Set in Hubballi, the film reflects the city's unique social and cultural vibe — its humour, daily lives, and subtle sense of mystery. Instead of treating the location as just a backdrop, the story draws from the city's personality, allowing its streets, conversations, and community dynamics to influence both the funny and suspenseful parts of the story.

The film will feature digital content creators from various parts of India

Santhosh, Samarth Kadkol, and Sandeep



An interesting feature of *Hubballi Hunters* is its diverse cast, which includes digital content creators from across India. Their involvement highlights the growing link between online platforms and mainstream cinema while introducing performers who gained popularity through short-form and web-based storytelling.

Samarth Kadkol has written and directed the film. His earlier work featured offbeat humor and a focus on regional details. Dialogues are co-written by Kadkol along with Rahul V Parvatikar, Amit Karvkar, and Chetan Marambeed, contributing to a conversational tone. With cinematography by Abhimanyu Sadanandan, music for the film is by Prasanna Keshava.

Hubballi Hunters seeks to explore how regional cinema can keep pace with changing audience preferences while maintaining cultural authenticity.

SRK'S *KING* GETS RELEASE DATE

CE FEATURES

THE release date of Shah Rukh Khan's *King* is out. The Siddharth Anand directorial, also starring SRK's daughter Suhana, is scheduled to release during the Christmas weekend on December 24.

Although there is no confirmation on the remaining cast of the film, there's buzz that the film features Deepika Padukone, Jaideep Ahlawat, Abhishek Bachchan, Rani Mukerji, Jackie Shroff, Anil Kapoor, Arshad Warsi, Raghav Juyal, and Abhay Verma. However, an official announcement is still awaited. On the technical front, Anirudh is reuniting with Shah Rukh Khan after a hit combination in Atlee's Jawan. The makers are yet to reveal the rest of the technical crew.

King is Siddharth Anand's second collaboration with Shah Rukh Khan after Pathaan (2023). The filmmaker last made Fighter (2024), starring Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone, and Anil Kapoor in the lead roles.